

Laarni still owns raided condominium, says 'buyer'

Story in Metro,
Page A24

DOH tries to cure gender-blind ways

By Blanche S. Rivera

CALL it a sign of the times. The Department of Health has begun orienting its health workers to be sensitive to the needs of DOH/A20



email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Monday, August 4, 2003 ★★ 76 pages / 8 sections / vol. 18 / no. 237

P15

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Military HQ reinforced

Palace officials squelch text rumors of another coup try

TROOP movements and rumors of another military mutiny frazzled nerves in Metro Manila yesterday, forcing officials to assure the public that the false reports were being spread by backers of the failed July 27 mutiny to create instability.

Malacañang's reiteration that threats to the Macapagal administration remained did not help ease the tension.

"Although the worst is probably over, it's not yet really finished. We still have to address residual threats," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said over radio station dzBB.

The day before, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the state of rebellion would stay as "a mantle of protection" as her government rooted out remaining threats.

Amid the threats, support units poured into Camp Aguinaldo, the military headquarters in Quezon City, over the weekend.

At least two battalions of support troops from nearby camps were seen being trucked into the camp. They were fully armed with assault rifles and other high-caliber weapons.

The military announced the deployment of the troops on TV and radio to prevent the public from mistaking the soldiers for mutineers.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said camp security was beefed up by around 300 soldiers from the 80th Infantry Battalion in Tanay, Rizal. "We need to have a big reserve (force) in case of any eventuality," he said.

Camp Aguinaldo commander, Commodore Tirso Danga, said troops were prepared and the camp was on the second of a three-step alert level, despite the fact there were no reports of specific threats.

"All measures are in place for any eventuality. All is well. Our troops can sleep, but are on the alert always," Danga said.

A text message said there were sightings of heavily armed mutineers traveling around Manila aboard buses.

Officials tried to squelch the rumors—most flashing by cell phone text messages around Metro Manila—of further military mutiny.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said she called a television station and publicly denied a rumor that said she and the President's chief of staff were summoning people to the Edsa Shrine, fearing a military uprising within 24 to 48 hours.

"These texts, especially troop movements and impending trouble, could... be meant to destabilize, perpetrated by those who want to see this government fall apart so that they can take over," Soliman told The Associated Press by tele-

MILITARY/A19



LINE OF DEFENSE: Army soldiers belonging to the 80th Infantry Battalion arrive at Camp Aguinaldo to reinforce security at the Armed Forces main headquarters amid persistent rumors of another power grab attempt.

JESS YUSON

GUARDIANS FACTION

Group links Honasan to mutiny

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE CHAIR of the New Guardians Inc.—one of at least nine Guardians factions—yesterday linked Sen. Gregorio "Gingo" Honasan to the failed mutiny and the plan to form a junta.

NGI leader Pastor Alcover Jr. said that a few months before the July 27

mutiny, persons close to Honasan and identified with the senator's Guardians faction tried to convince his members to join in the plan to topple the administration.

But the faction that Honasan is chair and president of, the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., denied allegations that it was mounting a rebellion against the government. The PGBI accused military officials of witch-hunting against its members

who are on active duty in the military and police service.

PGBI national spokesperson Ernie Makahiya told the INQUIRER that his group would "never resort to any violent or extralegal means" to attain the vision of Honasan's National Recovery Program, believed to be the bible of the renegade Magdalo group.

A third faction called the Guardians International issued a

GROUP/A21

Plan to transfer mutineer worries rebel soldiers

By Christian V. Esguerra

A DEFIANT officer of the Magdalo group of young rebel soldiers will be moved from Camp Aguinaldo to an "isolation cell" at Fort Bonifacio, according to the lawyer of the mutiny leaders.

Capt. Fermin Mabulo, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1995, will be brought to the headquarters of the Armed

PLAN/A21

Ex-hobo finds life's meaning at DSWD center

By Volt Contreras

LIKE the disgruntled young officers in last week's failed mutiny, this "rebel" had once holed himself up in the Makati business district. But he was a runaway who spent countless nights on the park benches of Greenbelt.

Sherwin Cruz, 26, said he spent more than a decade on and off the streets, repeatedly fleeing a broken home always with a heavy baggage of frustrations.

When "rescued" from years of vagrancy by social workers on March 14, Sherwin surprised his new guardians. He could speak English fluently as he comes from a well-off family and is even computer literate.

Four months later, Sherwin appears to have recovered his bearings to start life anew. Inspired by his rescuers, the high school graduate is finally catching up on his long-delayed studies. He's now enrolled at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City, training to be a social worker himself.

Sherwin looked like a typical taong grasa (hobo)—his body

EX-HOBO/A19



FORMER "taong grasa" Sherwin Cruz helps the less fortunate at the Jose Fabella Center in Mandaluyong City.

VAL HANDUMON

EU shoots down MBC contention

By Amando Doronila

THE EUROPEAN Union has drilled holes in the contention of the Makati Business Club that the retention of the state of rebellion is bad for the country because it is scaring away foreign investments.

In a statement issued over the weekend, the EU presidency congratulated the Philippine government for its "prompt reaction to restore order."

The European Union was referring to the quashing of the mili-

tary mutiny within 20 hours of the seizure of Oakwood Premier building in Makati City by a group of disgruntled junior officers.

ANALYSIS

The end of the siege followed the declaration of a state of rebellion by President Macapagal-Arroyo, which, to my mind, was the decisive turning point in the swift resolution of the conflict.

That the declaration continues in force—a week after the quashing of the coup attempt—has sparked a controversy between the administration and big business.

In a forum hosted by the Mani-

ness.

Lawyer Ricardo Romulo, MBC chair, was dismissive of the government's handling of the crisis.

"If she thinks we're happy with just a quick resolution, she's wrong," Romulo said, leaving the impression that, in a time of crisis, the MBC does not know what it wants: Whether it is unhappy that the government drew on its emergency powers to defend itself from a military revolt or that it wants a weak government big business can push and manipulate to promote the narrow inter-

EU SHOOT/A20

Business leaders try to find ways to settle row with GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LEADERS of the country's biggest business organizations, including the Makati Business Club, will hold an emergency meeting today to figure out how to patch up their frayed relations with Malacañang.

A source, who requested anonymity, said the meeting was

called primarily to draft a unified statement expressing the business community's support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, including an appreciation of her effective handling of the Makati crisis last week. The source said this should finally settle differences between the President and big business.

la Overseas Press Club last week, Ms Macapagal dramatically showed she was upset with the business community when she took a swipe at lawyer Ricardo Romulo, chair of the MBC, for his "awful statement" belittling her handling of the mutiny.

Interviewed earlier by the ABS-CBN television network, Ro-

BUSINESS/A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Balanes Group of Islands including Babuyan and Calayan Islands will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. The rest of Extreme Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/04/03

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Abus kill ransom courier

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Suspected Abu Sayyaf kidnappers have killed a man who delivered ransom to them in exchange for a relative being held hostage by the group, police said Sunday.

Abdul Lim was fatally shot after handing over more than P600,000 to the kidnappers near Patikul town in Jolo, Sulu, the police said.

Lim's body was found last week, but it was not clear when he was killed.

The money Lim had delivered was meant to buy the freedom of Gertrudes Tan, a relative reportedly kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in April and who is still believed to be in the group's hands in the jungles of Jolo.

"The operation is ongoing and we are trying to locate Gertrudes Tan. There are many intelligence reports and some of them say Tan is sick and suffering from a respiratory disease," police Chief Supt. Acmad Omar said.

Also last week, three men were kidnapped and later found dead on Jolo, a known Abu Sayyaf stronghold, the military said Saturday.

3 found dead

The three had arrived in Jolo on a ferry from Zamboanga City on Sunday but were immediately seized by armed men on motorcycles, local Army chief Col. Alexander Yapching said.

The gunmen took the three to Patikul. Their decomposing bodies, bearing gunshot wounds, were found on Thursday.

Yapching would not discuss a motive for the killings or say if they were believed to be the work of the Abu Sayyaf, which has been

linked by both Washington and Manila to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

In an unrelated incident, a Commission on Elections official kidnapped by unknown men in the southern Philippines was earlier rescued by police and the military, police officials said Saturday.

Casan Laguindab was recovered near Calanugas town where 10 gunmen had abducted him on Wednesday.

The kidnappers abandoned their victim and fled after police stormed their hideout. The motive for the kidnapping remains unknown.

Operations against the Abu Sayyaf, however, have sparked a rejoinder from Muslim officials.

Arrests protested

On Tuesday, the arrest of seven men in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, on suspicion of being Abu Sayyaf members prompted the officials and concerned Muslims to call on the government to spare civilians from illegal arrest.

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu said the seven were actually civilians who had acquiesced to a military invitation. Among them was a Palimbang village executive.

Palimbang Mayor Labualas Mamansual identified the arrested men as Mudo Lungad and Jaman Sayadi, both elected officials of Barangay Libua in Palimbang, and Blah Jaman, Sulaiman Piang, Gano Piang, Akmad Samaludin and Magi Gani.

Residents said the Piangs are related to Maguindanao Rep. Didang Dilangalan.

Prof. Abduhd Syed Mansour Lingga, chair of the Bangsamoro People's Consultative Assembly, said that while the campaign against terrorism was everybody's concern, the government should set a good example rather than

divide the people into "the good and the bad."

Lingga said that instead of zeroing in on terrorists, the government has divided the people into the good (Christians) and the bad (Muslims).

He said that between January and June this year, 45 Muslims were arrested without warrants in the government's antiterror drive in Mindanao.

"This is a filthy police operation," agreed former Maguindanao Rep. Michael Mastura, a peace panelist of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He charged that "after they had set (Fathur) al-Ghozi free, they are now looking for him in Taguig, in Quiapo and in all Muslim areas."

Outright executions

Mastura, a former Maguindanao congressman, said that if the Senate would look into the failure of the police and military in fighting terrorism, it should also look at areas where our authorities work fast, rounding up and "zoning" civilian communities, conducting illegal arrests and detention and even "outright execution" of Muslim individuals.

But the military maintained the seven Palimbang suspects were Abu Sayyaf members. The seven were flown to the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City on Friday.

The military said they were part of a larger band of Abu Sayyaf bandits, suspected to be led by Khadafy Janjalani, which landed in Palimbang a couple of weeks ago.

The suspects, he said, were positively identified by a former hostage as being among the gunmen who took turns in guarding her and other hostages in Sulu. *Nash B. Maulana and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP*

Truce monitors' meet to pave way for formal RP-MILF peace talks

COTABATO CITY—The formal peace talks between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front could finally be scheduled following the meeting of the ceasefire monitoring committees here today.

Government chief negotiator Eduardo Ermita told the INQUIRER that the Malaysian government could finally decide on the date of the talks after today's discussions between the Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

Ermita said the result of the meeting would be sent to Malaysia, the third-country host in the volatile peace process.

In a separate interview by Radio Mindanao Network, he expressed hopes that this would "pave the way for the Kuala Lumpur panel discussion on various issues that will eventually lead to the signing of a final peace agreement."

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier set a 90-day timetable for its negotiators to strike a deal with the MILF.

Before this could happen, Ermita said, "we have to ensure that the CCCH and a local monitoring team from various sectors are in place to avoid clashes... as experienced in the past."

He said AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia would head the government's ceasefire monitoring committee. ("But the MILF has yet to submit its

own composition during the meeting, which might be attended by MILF Vice Chair for Military Affairs Murad Ebrahim."

Spokesperson Eid Kabalu confirmed MILF's attendance, saying the Muslim separatists would raise the issue of military reports that Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Khadafy Janjalani had intruded into Palimbang in Sultan Kudarat in a bid to join forces with the MILF. (See main story on this page.)

Kabalu said the reports were detrimental to the image of the MILF.

The spokesperson also said that when the formal peace talks finally resume, the MILF would press for the return of its camps, including Camp Abubakar, which government troops seized in 2000.

This was not a new demand, Kabalu clarified. The return of the camps have been the subject of previous talks and exploratory meetings.

"But the military said the return of the captured camps, numbering about seven, was next to impossible," Kabalu said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, explained that people residing near former MILF camps now occupied by government troops would be the first to object. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, Joselle R. Badilla and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; with Blanche S. Rivera*

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PTAA

Talk on tribal artifacts set

THE NATIONAL Museum will present a talk on tribal artifacts focusing on "figurative sculpture" by independent researcher and collector Jose Marie Perez Trenas on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Trenas' presentation will highlight artifacts from the Cordillera region of northern Philippines now found in the collections of

the Musee de l'Homme in Paris and the Barbier-Mueller Collection in Geneva, Switzerland.

The lecture is part of the annual lecture series of the National Museum and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines. Registration begins at 9.30 a.m. at the Museum of the Filipino People.

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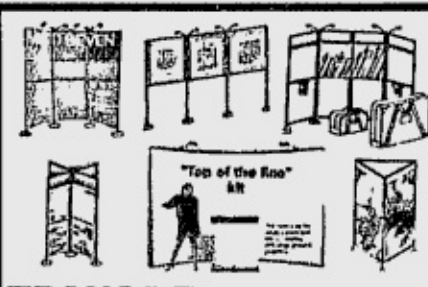
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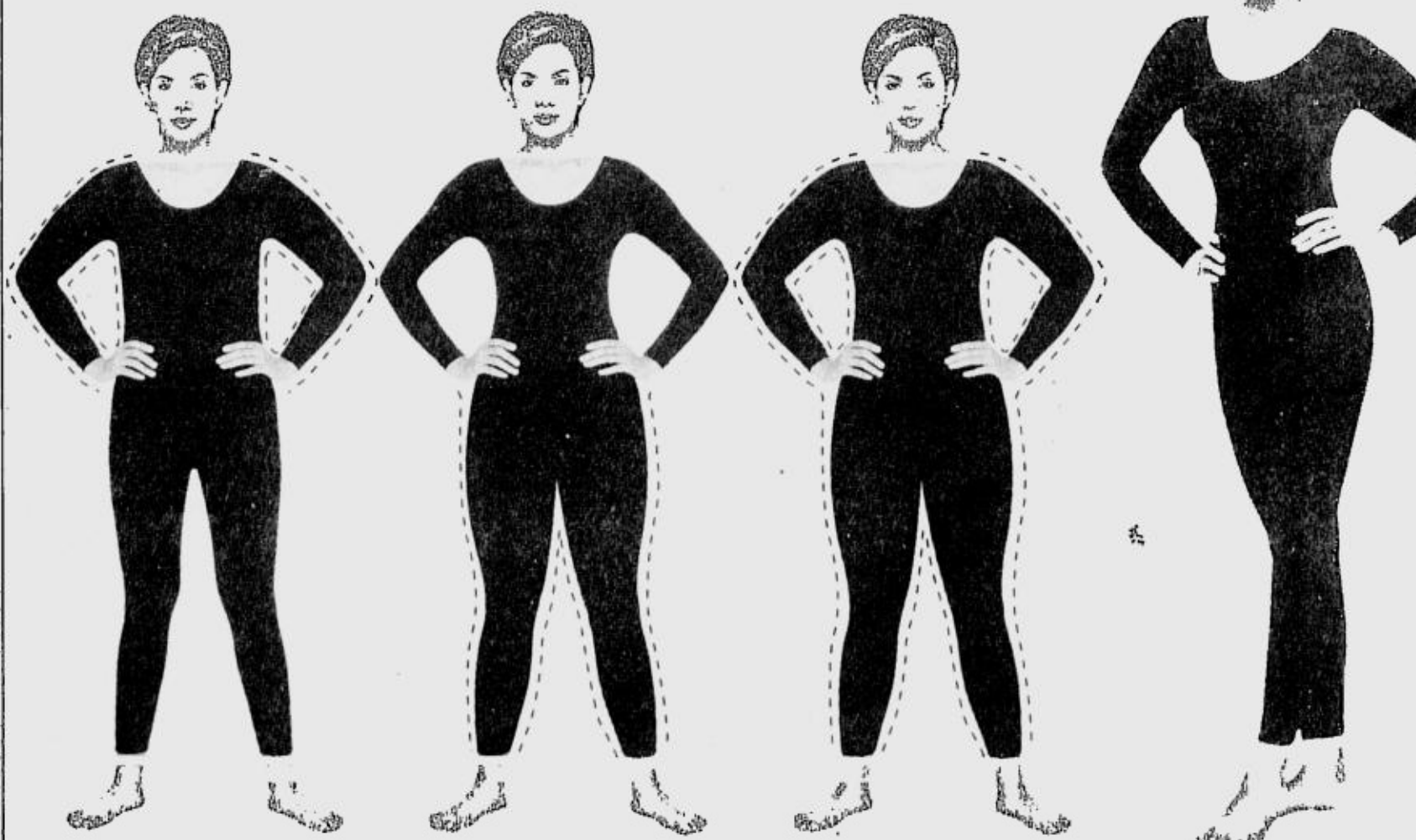
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Palace: Probes, mutineers' statements prolong threat

By Gil Cabacungan

BARRING the Magdalo rebel officers from airing more public

statements and suspending the congressional probes of the Makati mutiny would help contain "residual threats" posed by

military and civilian sympathizers, Malacañang said yesterday.

In a radio interview, Presidential

spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the mutinous group of 321 soldiers led by Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV had "no right to access any platform, such as the congressional inquiry, to create more chaos."

Bunye pointed out that the mutinous soldiers had violated the law. "The only rights they have now are the rights of the accused—the right to have a lawyer, the right to remain silent, and presumption of innocence—which we have given them," he said.

A platform from which they could continue to tell lies and agitate other soldiers was "not guaranteed by our laws," Bunye added.

The rebel leaders were conspicuously absent during both the House and Senate hearings last week. Military officials cited security problems in transporting the young officers from Camp Aguinaldo, where they are in "incommunicado detention."

Bunye said the President was supportive of a proposal by six senators on Friday to defer the leg-

islative inquiries to allow military and police officials—who were forced to attend the day-long hearings—to go after soldiers who were "still unaccounted for."

Close ranks

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the six, said authorities should focus on "the more urgent task of aborting the remaining elements that seek to destabilize the government."

Arroyo also urged the country to close ranks as the United States had done in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Republicans and Democrats closed ranks, supported President Bush in his effort to neutralize the situation," Arroyo recalled. "The US Congress did not conduct an inquiry until months later, and only after the situation had settled."

Between state security and the rebel soldiers' grievances, Arroyo maintained, "security of the state must be attended (to) first."

The Senate and the House had launched individual probes in aid of legislation.

Senators will meet today in a caucus to discuss Arroyo's appeal, along with fellow administration Senators Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, Noli De Castro and Robert Barbers, to suspend the Senate hearing.

In a phone interview, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the goal was a "consensus" on the six soldiers' resolution.

"Assuming that we can't get a consensus, then we have to decide as to the venue of the hearing or whether or not it (should) be held in an executive session," Drilon added.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez "committed" also on Friday to present the five mutiny leaders to the probes, but requested that

the inquiry be held in Camp Aguinaldo due to "grave security considerations."

Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto doubted that many other senators would favor suspension of the inquiry.

In a phone interview, Sotto said to suspend the probe would be construed by the public as "an obvious ploy by the Palace."

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the six soldiers' press statement "preempts the position of the Senate."

In a statement, Angara insisted that the Senate inquiry could tackle the "tough roots and circumstances of the Oakwood mutiny" without compromising national security.

Pushing ahead

At the Lower House, the committee on national defense is pushing ahead with its hearing tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the committee, said it had summoned Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, a former aide of deposed President Joseph Estrada, to shed light on the supposed "political component of the rebellion."

"It is turning out to be a bigger plot," Pichay said of the alleged involvement of Cardenas and opposition personalities like Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

He said the committee would subpoena the Armed Forces of the Philippines to produce the mutiny leaders, particularly Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV.

Honasan's dropping out of public sight "changes the picture," Pichay said. "This means there might be officers involved whose ranks are higher than captain, the average rank of the Oakwood mutineers." With Christine Aven-
daño and Carlito Pablo

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Comelec expects 2-M new voters to sign up

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME TWO million new voters are expected to enlist as the Commission on Elections begins its validation of registered voters and the resumption of continuing registration

today. Registration will be conducted 12 hours a day, with mobile validating machines stationed at the malls and big companies on weekends to make it easier for the busy voter to register; Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said. Malacañang is expected to declare National Youth Registration Week in

October to coincide with the semester break of students, who represent the bulk of new registrants. The continuing registration and nationwide validation would be on, until Nov. 14, with Comelec offices open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some 38 million voters are expected to validate their registration.

"Our priority is convenience, to make things easier for people who are busy, who cannot go to the registration centers on week-days," Abalos said in a phone interview yesterday.

The Comelec has ordered some 300 mobile validating machines to augment the

more than 1,000 machines which were used in the general registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The 300 machines are arriving on Aug. 15 from France, Abalos said.

Abalos said the first few days of registration and validation will be conducted at the office of the election officer in each barangay.

First-time registrants should bring their birth certificate and a valid ID while those who come for validation are required to bring only one ID or any proof of their nationality.

Those who married from the time of their first registration should bring their marriage contract and submit a petition for a change of name, while those who are registered but had never voted should file for reactivation before the election officer.

The setting up of registration machines in the malls and big companies would be done later this month or in September, Abalos said.

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Belgian women's bodies found

BAGUIO CITY—Gold panners have recovered the bodies of the two Belgian women who drowned on Wednesday in the Agno River.

Ramon Carino, chief of Barangay Dalupirip in Itogon, said the body of law student Kelly Smets, 19, was found at 11 a.m. Saturday, while that of India Carerras, 22, was recovered early Sunday.

The bodies had floated downstream towards Dalupirip's Sitio Pengbasan, a six-hour hike from Sitio Asin, where the Belgians had gone swimming

Smets and Carerras, members of the Young Christian Workers (YCW) in Limburg, Belgium, arrived in the Philippines with five other

Belgians on July 20 for a two-week "solidarity trip" among farmers and indigenous peoples.

The girls had reportedly panicked

while in the water when the riverbed suddenly shifted due to strong currents. Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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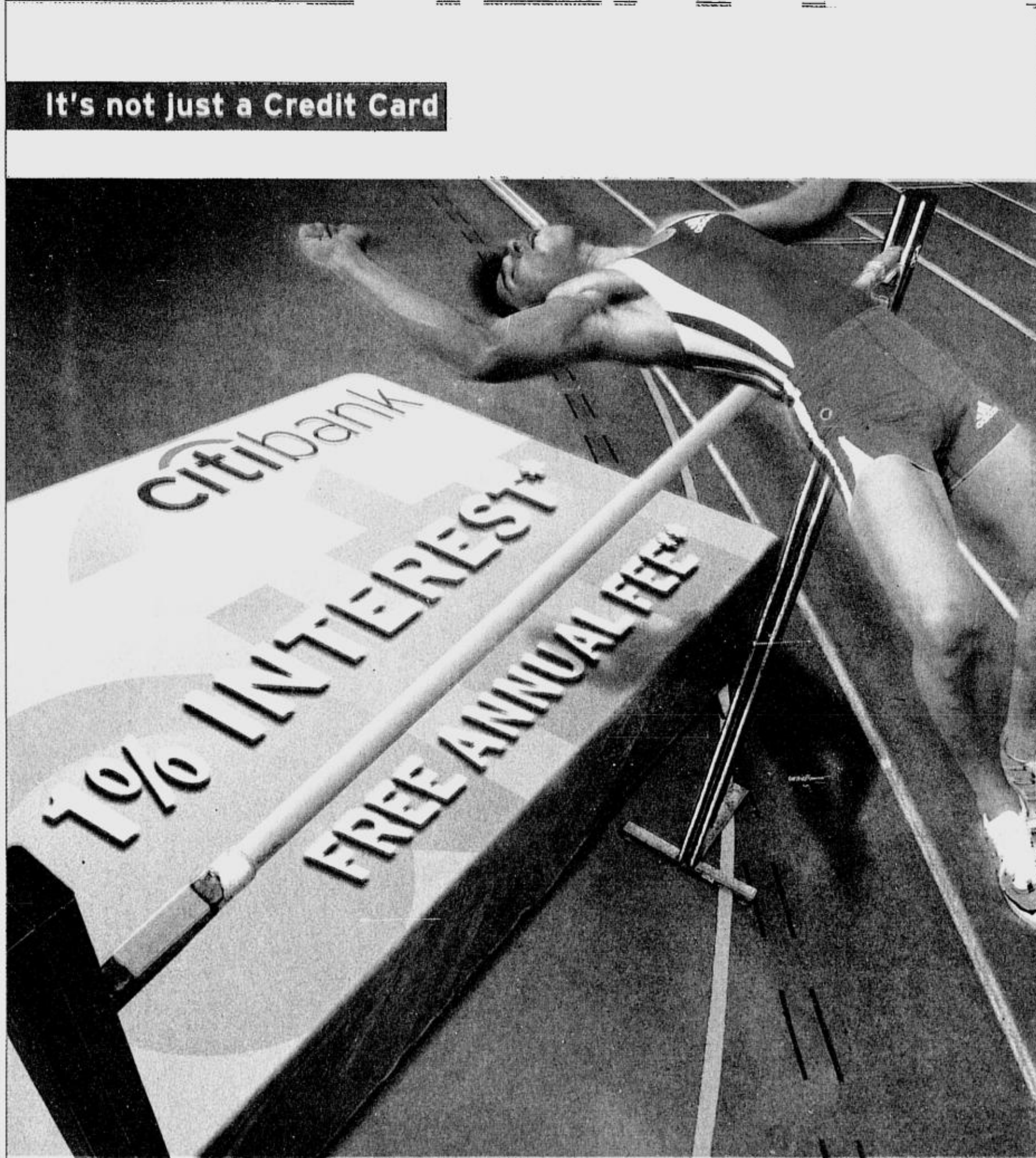
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Stop 'demoralizing' lifestyle check, tax collectors ask

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE EMPLOYEES' unions of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and

Customs have asked the Department of Finance to stop conducting lifestyle checks to reverse the declining morale in the two

agencies.

"We are grieved the improving collection performance which we endeavored to work on for the

past six months may not be sustained due to massive demoralization within the ranks," said the BIR Employees Association.

The BOC Employees Association said its members have become demoralized and confused since it appeared that aside from the DOF, other agencies were reportedly set to conduct lifestyle checks on them.

These agencies, according to the Customs union, were the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the National Bureau of Investigation and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which "have shown interest in looking into the assets of bureau employees and officials."

"Clearly, further demoralizing the two agencies through selective witch-hunting using the mantle of the lifestyle check is an attack on our rights and

another smear drive to condition the public's mind into accepting the argument that privatization is the only route to salvaging the country's tax collecting and ridding the BIR and BOC of undeserving officials and employees," said the Customs union.

Camacho says no

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, refused to give in, saying his department would not ease up on the checks designed to ferret out corrupt officials and employees in the two agencies, which together collect more than 90 percent of the government's total revenues.

The DOF has filed before the Ombudsman cases of graft and unexplained wealth against three senior BIR officials and a Customs warehouse chief.

Prior to that, three BIR officials were charged with falsification of public documents after they were found to have altered their dates of birth to be able to stay in office longer.

"I truly believe what we are doing would benefit the BIR and Customs because we are ridding them of the small minority that is giving the two institutions a bad name," said the finance chief.

Camacho also denied there was a plan to privatize the two agencies.

There is a pending bill to transform the BIR into a more efficient

revenue authority with a corporate setup but it would remain a government agency.

The BIR, which celebrates its 99th year today, collects more than 70 percent of the government's annual income.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said collections in July continued to exceed targets, sustaining the positive trend that started in April.

Positive collections

Based on preliminary numbers, the bureau collected P34.58 billion last month against its target of P33.458 billion.

The Bureau of Customs continued to report positive collection numbers and in July, the group took in P9.479 billion against a target of P9.111 billion.

The BIR Concerned Employees Association, a union of rank-and-file employees, said text messages saying the BIR would slow down collections if the lifestyle checks were not stopped were being orchestrated by the DOF.

"These text messages are coming from the camp of Camacho and (former BIR Commissioner) Rene Bañez. The BIR would never sabotage the collection," said Elmer Lee, BIRCEA president.

Contrary to the BOCEA, Lee's group supports the lifestyle check, saying the probes should have been conducted a long time ago.

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Random campus drug tests to cost P7M

By Dona Pazzibugan

AT LEAST P7 million is needed for the campus drug test that begins next month, according to a Department of Education official.

Thelma Santos, head of the health and nutrition division, said the money would likely come from the P1 billion "standby fund" that President Macapagal-Arroyo had set aside for the anti-drug campaign.

The campaign covers high schools, colleges, universities and technical schools.

Santos said about 35,000 students would be picked to take the test—7,000 from public high schools; 7,000 from private high schools; 7,000 from state colleges; 7,000 from private colleges and 7,000 from technical schools.

But DepEd was thinking of increasing the number of students to be tested per category, Santos said.

By Department of Health estimates, the test would cost from P100 to P200 per student.

There are about 6.5 million high school students in the country, 5.2 million of them in public school and 1.3 million in private schools. College students number about 2.5 million.

The DepEd and the DOH will start conducting surprise on-campus tests first week of September.

Based on the guidelines, the DepEd and Commission on Higher Education will randomly select high schools and colleges that will undergo testing. When the testing team arrives at the school, the principal or administrator, along with representatives of the faculty, students and parents will select students

also randomly.

The guidelines provide that the identities of the students be kept "secret," and that the principal or school administrator reveal the test results only to the students concerned and their parents.

"First-time positive confirmatory drug test shall not be a ground for expulsion or any disciplinary action against the student," the guidelines state.

Public school students found to be drug users will be required to undergo a three-month counseling session. If counseling fails, the student will be sent to a rehabilitation facility. Upon completion of the rehab program,

he will be eligible for re-enrollment.

Private schools are allowed to impose stiffer sanctions.

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'Rush law benefiting Marcos victims'

CONGRESS is being rushed to pass a law compensating martial law victims in order to free the \$682 million Marcos Swiss deposits being held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

Stressing the "urgency" of such a measure, the Presidential Commission on Good Government asked the House of Representatives to break its deadlock soon.

"The law must be passed expeditiously... specifically compensating the Marcos victims," said PGGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza. "That had better happen soon."

Carranza said the government has been in "constant communication" with Swiss federal authorities since the Supreme Court ruled on July 15 that the \$682 million Marcos Swiss deposits were ill-gotten and forfeited them in favor of government.

The SC ruling satisfied one of two "conditions" set by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in 1997 when it transferred the money to an escrow account here.

That part of the money should be used to compensate the victims of the Marcos dictatorship was the second condition.

But under the law, all recovered ill-gotten wealth should go to the agrarian reform program.

House Bill 4535 and Senate Bill 1877—both still at the committee level—would set aside \$200 million to indemnify the Marcos victims.

For the past few weeks, Representatives Etta Rosales, Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran—all torture victims—have been bickering over the bill.

Carranza noted that the lawmakers themselves realize the urgency of passing the law Dona Pazzibugan

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To peace

ONE of the few victors to emerge from the rubble of the Oakwood mutiny is the peace process with Moro separatist rebels. The ghost of military rebellions past has forced the Macapagal administration to a timely realization: The success of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is not only in the national interest. It is also in keeping with the administration's self-interest.

EDITORIAL The change in tone was already marked the day after Indonesian bomb-maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped from Camp Crame.

The administration had previously stretched the limits of creativity, when it invented reason after transparent reason for not jump-starting the stalled peace talks. Even the MILF's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire, since extended and then made indefinite, was greeted with an aggressive, disproportionate skepticism. A promise President Macapagal-Arroyo made to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to resume the talks without conditions, given on the sidelines of a conference in Japan, was qualified with old conditions when she returned to the country. Clearly, the Macapagal strategy was the product of a military mind-set. Press the armed advantage on the ground, and negotiate only when all terms are favorable to the government.

Al-Ghozi's embarrassing escape last month, however, drove the point home to the administration: Fighting on more than one front requires more resources than a deficit-funded government can provide. Negotiations with armed insurgents are thus useful, even imperative, even when the terms are not all favorable.

In the same month, the United States confirmed its readiness to join the peace process, to broker the talks if necessary, to fund rehabilitation programs as needed. The administration's change of approach was reflected in the issue of the arrest warrants. Previously, the President, her Cabinet officials, and the military top brass all said they could not do anything about the warrants issued against MILF founder Hashim Salamat and his key aides. But when a confluence of factors came together—Malaysia's quiet diplomacy, the color of American money, the country's humiliation before other members of the international coalition on terror—the government suddenly rediscovered it had the power to issue safe conduct passes.

Now the peace talks are set to resume in Kuala Lumpur this month, and it seems safe to assume that the negotiations will push through, no matter what.

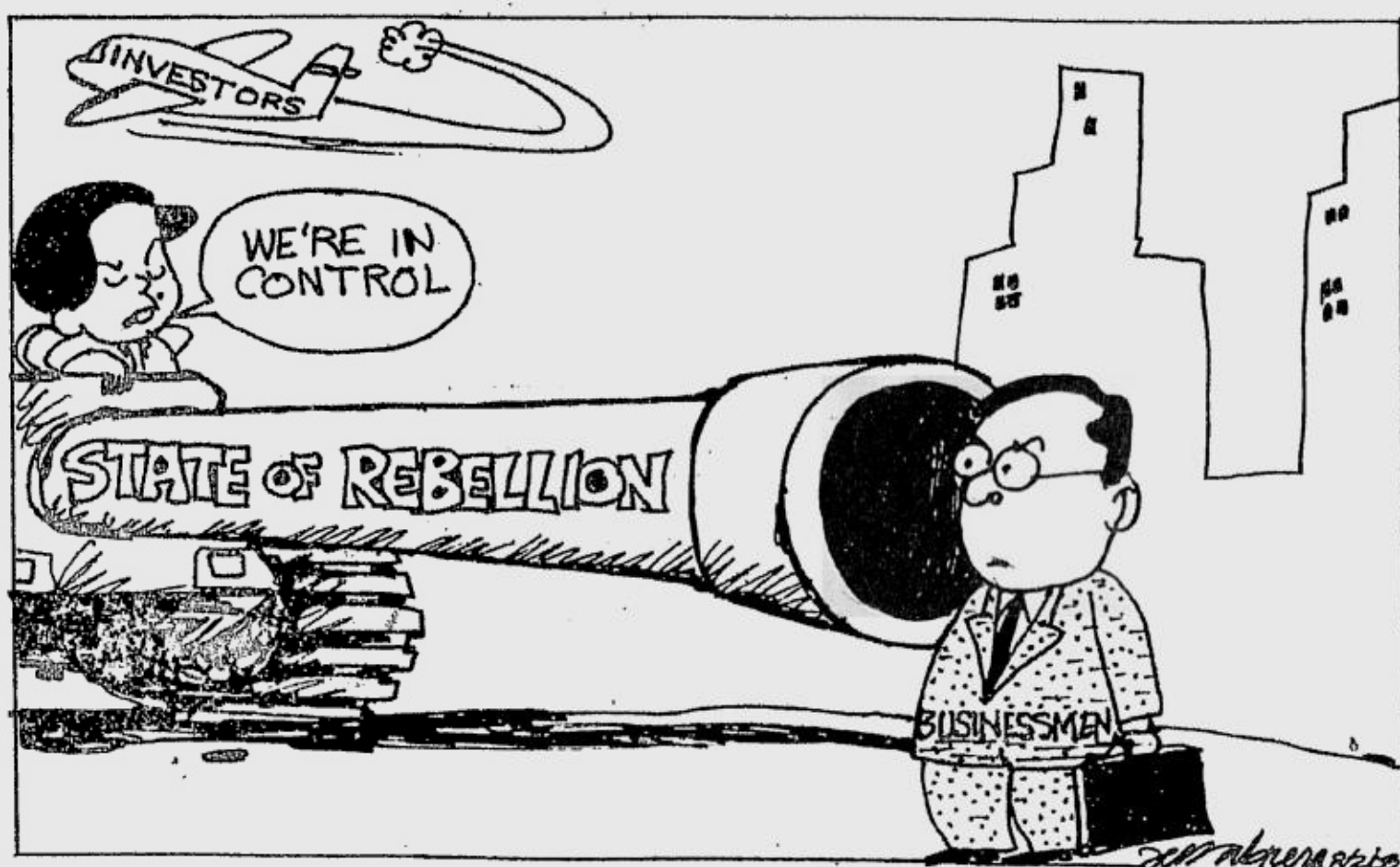
The most sensational claim of the misguided officers who rebelled last week—that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, the military intelligence chief who resigned his post last week, staged the terror attacks at the Davao City airport and wharf earlier this year—is unproven but dead-serious. But precisely for this reason, not even a major terrorist strike in the next several days will stop the government peace panel from journeying to the Malaysian capital. When the officers and men who actually engage the MILF on the ground are themselves in doubt about the rebel group's role in terrorism, the administration's standard reply that the MILF is to blame no longer has the power to persuade.

This is not to "glamorize," to appropriate the word Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President used last week, either the Moro rebels or the military mutineers.

Like charity, revolutionary movements cover a multitude of sins. We have no doubt that—whether in the case of the "new heroes" who melodramatically signed a blood compact in June or the Moro separatists who ride under the standards of poverty and oppression—indefensible acts in the name of a higher purpose have been committed.

But the national interest requires the use of a higher perspective. A negotiated end to a 30-year secessionist movement may not be to everyone's taste, but all things considered it is best for the nation. Mindanao, which the President is happy to call her childhood home, will remain the land of frustrated promise until the secessionist problem is resolved.

The mutineers' messianic complex may have rendered them vulnerable to political opportunists, but by an irony of history, their misguided action has helped ensure that the on-again, off-again peace talks with the MILF are finally on again.



No sense in removing GMA?

THE CRISIS is not yet over. There are still coup plotters out there seeking to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo and take over the government, according to military officers and Malacañang.

At a briefing for media last Saturday, former AFP chief of staff and Ambassador Roy Cimatu, Commodore Tirso Danga of the Navy, and Col. Eduardo Oban of the Air Force, among the principal negotiators for the government with the rebels at Oakwood, admitted that the assassination of the President is a "possibility" (though Danga qualified that with "though not a probability").

Why take the trouble and the risk, when Ms Macapagal's term will end in 10 months? They were asked. Why not just wait for her term to end? It will be here in the blink of an eye.

Answer: Because she may run for reelection and win.

Then why not just work to get another candidate elected instead of resorting to such a dastardly criminal act?

The obvious answer: Because they want to be sure that she does not remain President.

I know that the President is wavering between fulfilling her promise not to run again next year or breaking it because of pressures from her family and her subordinates who would be nothing without her. But I think the latest coup attempt should help her decide. Or at least give her persistent hangers-on a good reason for being true to her promise.

For as long as she remains President, the threats of coups and assassinations and, therefore, instability to the country, will continue. They will be there like a sword of Damocles hanging over her head. Who would want to live a life like that?

And they will be there while the possibility of her running again remains. If the putschists are certain that she would step down in 10 months, they may have the patience to wait.

As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



But while there is the possibility that she may run, they may want to end the uncertainty once and for all.

Thus, the key to her safety and to the restoration of stability and normalcy lies solely with the President. If she were to say categorically and definitely that she would fulfill her promise (as she is like George Washington who cannot tell a lie), then most likely the coup and assassination plots would cease. The plotters would be content to wait.

But as I said in an earlier column, she does not want to be a lame-duck President. She does not want her subordinates and supporters deserting her to work for the next probable President. That is why she wants to keep them guessing.

And the guessing game is predominantly in favor of the likelihood that she would run again. It is amusing how politicians of all stripes, after listening intently to her words and closely watching her body language in the last State of the Nation Address, concluded that, indeed, she is going to run for reelection. Most of this is wishful thinking, especially for the officials and hangers-on who would be, to repeat, worse than nothing without her. So they are most likely praying to the Lord 10 times a day to make her see the light and run again to save them from penury and oblivion.

But then, again, she may really be entertaining the notion that, yes, she would like to be President for six more years (*masarap pala*). But what a stressful six years that would be.

She would become paranoid, seeing coup plotters and assassins lurking in every dark corner. And what problems she would encounter running a country destabilized by repeated coup attempts. Worse, by the law of averages, one of them is bound to succeed. The plotters learn with every mistake and failure and they should get better with time.

Those are the choices before the President: Retire as a respected elder statesman to a life of peace and quiet, contentedly taking care of Mikaela, and a respected place in history. Or continue to be President with all the slings and arrows the position is heir to. Or worse, presiding over the collapse of her country into a banana republic. Even worse, of being defeated in her reelection bid, an ignominy that her own father, Diosdado Macapagal, never recovered from psychologically.

But don't get me wrong. I am not telling the President to give up any notion of running for reelection. The other presidential wannabes, without exception, promise to be worse than her. In short, we may be better off with GMA.

What I am saying is for her to think of her welfare first. And Mikaela; she needs a lola, all children do. A child who has no doting lola loses half of his or her life, the most enjoyable part.

And the way to make sure Mikaela continues to have a loving lola is to show to the coup plotters that there is no need to assassinate her.

TODAY'S JOKE:

Do you know why the mutineers chose Oakwood and Glorietta to seize and take over last Sunday? It was all because of faulty communication.

The mastermind was sending orders to the mutineers via text messages. His order was "Take Gloria," meaning in Malacañang. Somehow the message came out as "Take Glorietta."

Missing the point

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



matic in him to inspire a group of young officers—whose career in the military is virtually assured—to risk everything in a lost cause. Which must suggest that neither had to do with the mutineers' mutiny. If Gringo had any role in the mutiny, it was probably a minor, or even tangential, one.

I repeat my thesis here, which is that the young officers, even during Fidel Ramos' time, did not lack for anything to gripe about the gap in lifestyles between the generals and the men on the field. If anything, they had more so. I know that personally because I heard those officers talk about epic corruption in the sale of Fort Bonifacio, in the (mis)use of supplies from uniforms to gasoline, in the division of spoils known as the AFP budget.

If there was no coup during Ramos' time, it was simply because the Ramos government—completely ironically in that it was headed by a former general, AFP chief and defense secretary—was devoted to civilian supremacy. Of course, it was accused now and then of militarizing the bureaucracy, courtesy of Jose Almonte's penchant for intrigue and the appointment of retired generals to minor government posts and embassies abroad. But it was in fact the civilianization of the military rather than the militarization of civilian institutions. The one feature of that government that stands out now in contrast to the GMA government is that it held peace talks with the NPA and the armed Moro groups. And forged treaties with them.

The GMA government has merely insisted on calling them terrorists and on waging war with them—if the mutineers are to be believed, even fabricating an excuse to drag the MILF in partic-

ular into the fray. (Prospero Pichay was right when he said the Davao bombings were too well organized for the Abu Sayyaf to have carried them out!) The reason for this being to capitalize on the United States' willingness to supply more arms and aid to countries that can see terrorists under every bed. All of it has given a windfall to the AFP in terms of a bigger budget, more military aid and a decisive role in national life. Alongside this, there's been a spate of local and foreign movies extolling war exploits, thus conditioning the public to accept the soldier as the new messiah.

You have more spoils and more power, you are going to have more squabbles and more power grabs. The season of coups is by no means over, it has just begun. And the one person to blame for it is not Gringo Honasan, it is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. In fact, Gringo's recovery, or new claim to fame, is not courtesy of his foresightedness, it is courtesy of GMA's shortsightedness. She unleashed the sword to fight a war whose primary objective was to keep her in power. It won't be unsheathed again.

The businessmen miss the point too in this respect. How can't they? They're too busy looking after their own skin to see anything farther. The problem is not that GMA has extended the state of rebellion. What is a week or even more of it? The problem is that we have been in a state of rebellion—or emergency—for some time now. Which has conferred on GMA and Angelo Reyes awesome powers which are what the businessmen worry about. All they need to do is utter the magic word, "terrorist," and neither business nor the Church, neither media nor civil society, dare ask too many questions or look too closely. That is a recipe for tyranny. And coups.

Looking for Gringo to find the answers to the coup is like that text joke about the mutineers having orders to seize Gloria but seizing instead the next best thing which was Glorietta.

Same sound, wrong address.

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Legitimate opposition should draw the line

I SUPPORT the snowballing sentiment that both the Senate and the House should suspend their investigations into the failed mutiny for the moment. The priority of the State is to stabilize the situation and this means addressing the continuing threat of rebellion and hunting down whatever remaining support there may be for the mutineers in the armed forces and the civilian sector. Administration senators Joker Arroyo, Robert Barbers, Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Noli de Castro have filed a resolution seeking the postponement of the hearings until the situation stabilizes, and this is most sensible. After all, if the purpose of the Senate Committee of the Whole is to look into the mutineers' complaint against AFP corruption, that problem won't go away or be solved overnight since corruption is rooted in the AFP's structural deficiencies. But how can the military and defense leaders address the continuing threats if they are tied down to committee hearings? I hope Speaker Jose de Venecia also takes up the postponement of the House hearings.

Moreover, as our colleague Ramon Farolan noted, the people have become quite skeptical about congressional investigations, citing the failure of the Senate to close the issue of the joint committee report on Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Farolan rightly ascribed the Senate's eagerness to investigate the mutiny and its failure to act on the Lacson committee report to its desire to protect their own members—its *esprit de corps*. But there are higher considerations, such as the stability of the State and its institutions.

It was obvious that the senators were out to protect Sen. Gregorio Honasan. But it appears that he may have dug himself into a deep hole with the mutineers. Intelligence reports indicate he was present during the young officers' blood compact that firmed up their mutiny plans. According to Newsbreak magazine, he even supplied the US-made knives for the blood-letting. Classmates of Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV now recall that while he worked closely with the senator on his National Recov-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



ery Program, the latter pampered Trillanes with certain trappings, a car for one.

Honasan is a tragic figure. Despite the fact that he succeeded in winning two terms in the Senate and is being talked about as vice president material, his former RAM colleagues note that he obviously hasn't outgrown the coup mentality. Now he seems to have gone into hiding to escape arrest, but as lawyers note, flight is an indication of guilt. He should come out and defend himself.

Senate insiders note that Honasan's PMA Class '71 classmate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, seems very serene these days, as he professes to be "squeaky clean" of the mutiny issue. In fact, colleagues say Lacson is resentful of the mutineers' arrogating the revolutionary name of "Magdalo," the name of his political group in Cavite, his home province. But his serenity may be upset soon. After the necrological services for the late former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez in the Senate last week, Sen. Robert Barbers assured this column that tomorrow, he will press Majority Leader Loren Legarda to already calendar his much-delayed sponsorship of the Lacson committee report, and that he will no longer brook any delay. Some weeks back, Senate President Franklin Drilon wrote me to assure the public that the moment Barbers files the report, he'll make sure it's calendared.

Sen. Edgardo Angara protests the administration's linking the opposition to the mutiny through "coincidences" and lumping them with the rebels. He said, this "may drive them

to go underground." I doubt, however, if any opposition politician, save perhaps for Honasan, could ever think of going underground—they love the good life too much. But Angara's point is well-taken: indeed there appears to be two kinds of opposition—the legitimate or responsible opposition and what may be called the "rogue opposition." The trouble is that often the lines separating the two groups are blurred. The legitimate opposition has to draw the line and state where its members stand on the issue of military mutiny.

For instance, by now the involvement of the Estrada camp through the use of the Cardenas and Laarni Enriquez houses, where identical arms and ammunition and propaganda material, including Trillanes' thesis, were found, is pretty well known; a third house in San Juan was raided, except that those inside were tipped in advance so nothing was found. There's talk of receipts found in Oakwood traced to a place owned by Jinggoy Estrada and of Mayor JV Ejercito, Ronald Lumbao and Horacio Morales paying some 30,000 people P500 to P1,000 each to surround Oakwood during the mutiny; but the people failed to show up, doubtless, afraid of the well-publicized bombs and of being caught in the crossfire.

Many people noted that after the mutiny the rebels' lawyers held a press conference, of which a photo was taken, with Sen. Tessie Oreta in the background. There are also reports that this rabid Erap loyalist had been hosting sessions with the Trillanes group in her residence prior to the mutiny and these were not just for ballroom dancing. Where does the "legitimate opposition" draw the line?

This belongs to the "Oops...department: in my rush to cover the President's Manila Overseas Press Club appearance, I referred in last Saturday's column to the meeting between Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV and his classmate Capt. Cris Magdangal as taking place "last Sunday" when it should have read, "last Sunday, July 13."

'Coup-rrupting' Mindanao

MINDANAO is the one big issue that will always haunt President Macapagal-Arroyo, the one that could make or unmake her administration.

It took the escape of convicted terrorist-bomber, Indonesian Fathur al-Ghozi, to expose the "incompetence" of the PNP and put into question the administration's US-patented "war on terrorism." Then came another whammy: the mutiny of junior officers, mostly combat-tested in the battlefields of Mindanao, alleging that the bullets and firearms killing many of their comrades-in-arms come from the corruption-laden AFP; and that the Davao bombings were done by government agents to bring upon the terrorist tag on the MILF and scrape more anti-terrorism funds from the United States.

But lest we forget and dismiss it as a "blip in the computer screen," it is also Mindanao that has recently become the arena of the government's Janus-faced approach to conflict resolution: hawkishly pursuing a "total war" that displaces civilians in the hundreds of thousands while paying lip-service to the peace process.

There is no doubt that many in Mindanao, sympathize with the Magdalo mutineers on the issues they raised. Although I agree that these are not reason enough for the people "para magdiwang" and run to their side.

While many, including the media, lionize these young officers—in the same manner that coup plotters in the past were also glorified rightly or wrongly—their grievances do not justify their rebellion.

That tourist-like, albeit armed to the teeth, foray into the heart of Makati was doomed from the start. It had no clear theoretical and principled foundations and it failed to capture the imagination of the masses.

"Everyone knows how corrupt the Philippine military's top hierarchy is. Yet, these supposedly idealistic mutineers did not give specifics in exposing these evils," e-mailed Iris, a Mindanaoan friend now working in Makati.

Actually, there is nothing new about their

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate



stand. The late Jose Diokno was convincing and sincere in voicing ideas about nationalism and poverty because of his moral stature. And that's the most important thing in any given cause. Indeed, since all that the Magdalo soldiers wanted was to air their grievances, in the end, the Magdalo group got what it deserved: promises that, according to them, are now being broken.

The factional strife within the AFP at least brought the government to some sense of awakening (again!). Of particular concern, however, for the people of Mindanao is, who will compose the commission that will probe the Davao bombings? Who will create such a commission? What will be its mandate?

"The probe body should cover all tracks. It should be able to scrutinize the police, intelligence and military units' role prior, during and after the bombings. They should be obliged to submit all available evidence in their possession," urged Davao City Councilor Angela Librado.

There is a strong clamor now for Mindanaoans "with proven record of integrity and impartiality, that will not succumb to pressures" to be among those appointed to the commission.

Yet, judging from the way President Macapagal seemed to insulate her national security team led by Reyes ("They want Angie to resign because they wanted to weaken me. I will not fall into their trap," she told the Manila Overseas Press Club last Thursday) from any accusations of complicity, the proposed commission is indeed in for a rough sailing. Ms Macapagal apparently has opt-

ed to conveniently forget that, in the end, it is the peoples' withdrawal of support that will truly weaken her.

For quite sometime now, allegations that the bombings, not only in Davao but also elsewhere in Mindanao, may have been the handwork of a "third force" have long been a topic of serious concern among various sectors. Not farfetched since the bombs exploded when breakthroughs were achieved in the on-and-off GRP-MILF talks. Some militant groups, too, have pointed out that the "militarists in the government" may have been orchestrating the bombings to justify an all-out military approach against groups they perceive as "terrorists," the Abu Sayyaf, NPA and MILF, among them.

These allegations were, however, dismissed outright as a mere concoction of "conspiracy theorists" out to discredit the government. Now, for sure, these peace advocates will thank the Magdalo group for bringing into the open the nagging issue of alleged government complicity, particularly, that of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and his group, in the bombings.

Though miles away from the Makati siege, the allegations of the Magdalo group certainly "exploded like a bombshell" for Mindanaoans. They "resurrect the ghost of the Davao bombings," said the Mindanao Peoples' Caucus, a civil-society group that closely monitors the GRP-MILF peace talks. "What makes the charges more serious and credible is that they were made by officers in the field, some of whom have long been in combat duty in Mindanao."

Although not reported in the national media, several days before the Makati siege, the church-led InPeace Mindanao, a group of peace advocates, had convened the "Mindanao Truth Commission" in Davao to investigate the bombings in Mindanao.

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Is the Supreme Court infallible?

DEAN Raul Pangalangan of the UP Law School was eagerly awaited by over a hundred young law scholars of the Ateneo de Manila. But he skipped out on the debate he'd agreed to with Alan Pagua about the landmark ruling on the Estrada vs. Arroyo case (GR 146710-15), which legitimized the removal and replacement of then President Joseph Estrada in the aftermath of Edsa II. In his opening remarks, Dean Jose Roy III of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila cut right to the heart of the matter with this question: "Is the Supreme Court infallible?"

Most Filipinos would want an infallible Supreme Court, or else, how could it be a final court of last resort? But there was a poignant moment last Friday, when Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was asked by Sen. Loi Ejercito about the military's role in Edsa II. Comparing it to the Oakwood coup d'etat, she asked him if he himself had done his constitutional duty as AFP chief of staff when he withdrew the support of the military and joined the Church-led civilian-military Edsa II that overthrew the Estrada administration.

His reply was interesting. He said he was justified in his action since the Supreme Court twice ruled later that the Edsa II regime change was constitutional. He said that "the Supreme Court is always right, because even when it is wrong, it is right, since it is final."

But is it really final? The Supreme Court corrects and reverses itself all the time. Recall that the prosecution walkout on the Estrada impeachment trial on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001, resulted in an uprising that ended on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, with Chief Justice Hilario Davide swearing in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President on the basis of a fax transmission claiming Joseph Estrada was "permanently disabled." Yet the Court ruled just two months later in Estrada vs. Arroyo that the regime change was based on "effective resignation" with not even a whisper of "permanent disability."

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

So, the power of the Supreme Court—to "review, revise, reverse, modify or affirm on appeal" rulings of the "lower courts"—must also apply to its own past rulings. In America, the land of self-evident truth that all men are created equal, centuries passed with only white propertied men allowed to vote. In 1857, it ruled that it was unconstitutional for states to abolish slavery. (Republican Abe Lincoln showed them!) Yet dozens of "separate but equal" apartheid-like rulings did not fall until the emergence of the liberal Courts in the last century and the civil rights movement of Martin Luther King. American females of all colors did not enjoy universal suffrage until the 20th century, no thanks to the Court. Also in US history, 61 federal judges and Supreme Court justices have been investigated for impeachment, 13 were tried, and seven were convicted and removed from office.

But impeaching justices is no remedy in the case of a decision, such as that in the Estrada vs. Arroyo ruling, whose constitutional and logical infirmities rise exponentially with time and directly with the number of people who study it. Those who penned it know best how true this is—because they are honest men. But let me say this again: The Supreme Court justices make a separate oath to do their duty under the Constitution, regardless of Erap's guilt or innocence. They can make mistakes when they hurry. Justice hurried is justice buried. Less than one hour passed between the arrival of the fax at the Supreme Court and the swearing in at Edsa. Why? Chief Justice Davide might have given in to a request of Jaime Cardinal Sin when they swore Gloria in.

Many people refuse to enforce the accountability of government officials for their separate acts because they think it will help Erap. But good intentions are no excuse for dereliction of duty. Or else—bless Oakwood!

Principles of equity demand that those who held Estrada to a certain moral standard, as I did and still do, should also hold others to that same standard. We must be willing to contemplate the possibility that Davide erred despite good and noble intentions—or because of them. He did not verify the claim that Estrada was "permanently disabled" before he swore Gloria to the presidency. Of course, the fact that it was his idea—or Cardinal Sin's—that she sent such a claim to the Court, thickens the plot a little. Was it a ménage-à-trois among the Church, the military and the Supreme Court? Or a "grand conspiracy"? Or a messianic attempt to prevent a power vacuum?

In my opinion, the Supreme Court is infallible because it is never final. Judicial infallibility rests on perpetual corrigibility—the habit of self-correction based on new evidence and reflection, the same mental habit of redaction demanded by the scientific method. This is the metaphysics of the Law—it can never be unmated from the jealous truth. Or else, restless will roam and rage that sympathetic conscience and penetrating intelligence in the people, which survive mere Supreme Courts. "Nothing is settled until it is right." Justice Frederick Douglass says, "Nothing is final but justice, liberty and humanity." For all and from all, I say.

Friday's Senate hearing on coup d'etat touched the roots of it—in Latin!—when Secretary Reyes said, "Salus populi est suprema lex" (The good of the people is the supreme law)," and Sen. Ejercito replied, "Vox populi, vox Dei" (The voice of the people is the voice of God)." But Drilon mercifully called the next interlocutor.

(If you can google or yahoo, you will find me on the World Wide Web.)

Frustration of a whistle-blower

IT'S a sign that some people have lost faith in the government's ability to cleanse its ranks when they prefer to go to the media rather than to the Ombudsman or law enforcement authorities to complain about alleged acts of graft and corruption.

A reader, whose identity I will keep under wraps for security reasons, thinks the INQUIRER, not any government office, is the proper forum to expose the crooks that abound in the bureaucracy. In his opinion, however, the newspaper is not being cooperative in his crusade to make the country graft-free. And he is upset about it.

He wrote: "I have sent several letters to the editor regarding certain issues but it seems that PDI is very selective in publishing letters, especially if these concern certain public officials and their illegal activities. Sometimes, I cannot help but feel so frustrated to see almost the same names in the letters published by PDI."

"I was tempted to call the president of PDI (who is my cousin's school batchmate) and ask her if she can help me. But prudence dictates that I shouldn't bother her on this seemingly trivial matter."

"What I find odd is the fact that I have given all information about me, including my two mobile numbers, home/office phone and telefax. While others who claimed 'anonymous' have their letters published."

"What are the bases of PDI for publishing and not publishing one's letters? It seems that if I get a 'padrino' (and 'padrina'), I would have a chance of having my letter published. How much do I need to pay for my letter to be published? I'm willing to pay the price as long as I can afford it just to provide vital information that I feel the public should know."

Criteria

After reading the letter, I told myself that if only one-tenth of the Filipinos had the same attitude as this reader's, the Philippines will be the most progressive nation in this part of the world. There will be fewer shenanigans in the government and the people's money will be properly spent. I can dream, can't I?

Before I go to the meat of the letter, let me clear up some things. It's true there are some writers whose letters seem to find print quite often in the Letters section. The Opinion editor said it's not because he has a special liking for those people; it's just that their letters meet the newspaper's criteria.

As I have mentioned in the past, timeliness, brevity and good grammar are the criteria that letters to the editor should meet to be considered for publication in the Letters section. Some readers find the "good grammar" requisite elitist because, in their opinion, it puts at a disadvantage those who have something good to say, but lack the facility of language to clearly express their thoughts.

The argument makes sense. But when you have six column articles and five or more letters to read and edit every day before the production staff reminds you about the deadline to close the section, it helps a lot if the editor does not have to make odds and ends of what a writer is trying to say or re-write the letter to make it readable.

With regard to "anonymous" letters, that label is used only if, in the judgment of the Opinion editor, disclosing the identity of the writer might endanger his safety and that of his family, or may result in the loss of his job or livelihood. But before letters of this nature are published, the editorial staff sees to it that they are genuine by calling the writers at the telephone number or address they gave in the letters.

Merits

The reader's perception that a letter writer needs a "padrino" or godfather to ensure the publication of his letter is unfair to the staff of the Opinion section. Neither is it right to insinuate that a bribe has to be paid if one wants his letter to see print in that section.

As long as the letter meets the criteria I described earlier, its writer can rest assured that it will be given due consideration and fair treatment by the staff. Whether or not it will be published is for the Opinion editor to decide. With scores of letters competing for inclusion in the section's limited space, only the "fairest among the fair" will be published.

Now let's go to the reader's complaint that the INQUIRER has turned a blind eye to his letters exposing the illegal activities of certain government officials.

Although I am not supposed to, I have been receiving letters of similar nature from the readers. The supposed exposés involve, among others, anomalies in the procurement of school supplies, construction of irrigation facilities, non-payment of contractors' bills and a host of other questionable transactions that sometimes make me wonder if there are any clean contracts ever entered into by the government.

As a matter of policy, the newspaper does not publish these letters because it has no way of checking the veracity or truth of the allegations or charges they contain. It does not have the resources and manpower to verify the contents of the letters to determine if they are fit for publication.

Liability

The INQUIRER may find itself in serious legal trouble if it publishes letters that are libelous or tend to stain the reputation of their subjects. It cannot excuse liability by saying that it merely printed what other people said or wrote. The newspaper that publishes a libelous material is equally liable as the person who wrote the defamatory statements.

Aside from the financial costs involved, the editors have better things to do than attend investigations at the prosecutor's office or testify in court to answer libel charges.

But this should not be taken to mean that the newspaper totally ignores letters or tips about acts of graft and corruption. If the supporting documents appear to be in order and the transaction in question has serious national consequences, the editor in chief may assign a senior editor to study the matter further with the view to writing an investigative report.

For my part, whenever I receive letters from whistle-blowers, I send them to the government office affected or the Office of the Ombudsman so they can act on them as they may see fit. Before doing that, however, I see to it there are no instructions from the writer to keep everything confidential or not to pass on the information he shared with me to others.

If the letter contains that prohibition and the subject matter, in my judgment, does not justify the preparation of an investigative report, the letter's final destination is the bin of recyclable papers.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or reader-sadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

'Delicadeza,' please!

SO, Lt. Gen. Victor Corpuz has resigned!

What about Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes?

What must it take for him to perform the proper act of inhibiting himself and his influence in the two independent bodies that will investigate the July 27 mutiny and Davao bombing?

In this regard, I salute what former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez did when he was indicted. He immediately filed a leave of absence while investigation was ongoing. The man has *delicadeza*.

Has Secretary Reyes' position gone way above his head that he has completely lost the character of a true officer and a gentleman?



Webster has a word that the secretary might want to look into to improve his character—"Propriety"!

—VICTORIA GARCIA,
Parang, Marikina City.

A new low in Philippine TV journalism

"ALAM mo," Ces Drilon said from inside Oakwood Premier on Sunday, "nakakahiya." It was finally time for the press conference of the rebel soldiers to start, only it couldn't seem to get underway—and the media had only themselves to blame. Viewers didn't have the benefit of a live video feed, but they could hear the sounds of chaos: loud voices, people jostling each other, a mad stampede to get the best position. Rumor has it that the soldiers, desperate to get the unruly mob under control, fired the one and only shot to ring out that Sunday—a warning shot, to make the members of the media shut up and calm down.

The post-mortems are now being written, and much is being made of the consequences of the July 27 rebellion: its adverse effect on the economy, its impact on the government's credibility and what potential shakeups in the AFP might result from it, to name a few. But surely one institution that will sustain lasting damage from this narrowly averted disaster is the one that was responsible

for reporting it to us: the local news media.

During a day in which unfolding events alternately played out as a comedy of errors, a surreal pastiche of a coup, or some strange new twist on reality TV, the media, instead of clearing up the confusion, only contributed to it. A viewer who woke up at 10 a.m. and tuned to ANC, our only 24-hour news channel, had to wade through two hours of inane chatter and wild speculation before he could cobble together some idea of what was happening.

Eager for some intrepid reporting and maybe some incisive analysis, viewers changed channels, only to be greeted with images of singing and dancing teenagers. We can't go even one Sunday without the lip-synching startlets.

In desperation, some viewers decided to get their news from BBC or CNN—at least there they could get hourly updates, with a minimum of irrelevant talk or pompous posturings from retired government officials. By accident, some stumbled upon NBN, the

government channel—usually the last resort for viewers seeking compelling coverage. But lo and behold, it was showing actual news! As NBN was broadcasting the all-important announcement from Malacañang that the deadline was being extended, the anchor at ANC speculated that maybe the deadline had been extended but Malacañang had not officially confirmed it.

Live television is a pressure cooker. There is no time to double-check facts, and mistakes will be made. But it seems hard to believe that our media—veterans of the impeachment trial, several people power revolts, seemingly endless coup attempts and countless natural disasters—could have performed in such an amateurish and embarrassing manner this time around. Only the ill-conceived, poorly executed plot of the rebels matched the media's bungled handling of this story. And in the end, it was the viewing audience—the Filipino people—who lost out.

—ANNA B. HIDALGO,
annah@globenet.com.ph

Stop incommunicado detention, lift state of rebellion

INCOMMUNICADO detention is a violation of the 1987 Philippine Constitution as clearly stated in Article III Section 12 (2): "Secret detention places, solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited." The incommunicado detention of the five military leaders of Magdalo should therefore be immediately stopped.

Further, the siege of Oakwood, which was the basis of the declaration of a state of rebellion, has ended. No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had said, "The 'crisis' in Makati is over." But the state of rebellion is still in place, justified by the need to arrest co-conspirators of Magdalo. Investigations and arrests of co-conspirators may be done under normal processes. We urge her to lift the state of rebellion. There

is no reason for it to remain since there is no longer an imminent threat to the republic.

"The 'crisis' in Makati is over." Thus President Macapagal proudly and ecstatically declared, after the junior officers surrendered. Truly, the siege of Oakwood in Makati has ended. However, what happened last July 27 should also be seen as only the beginning.

The junior officers dramatically aired their grievances. Now, it is up to the government to do its part of the bargain.

In President Macapagal's State of the Nation Address, she said she would form three independent commissions: one to probe the roots of the mutiny; the other to investigate the bombings in Davao; and the third to institute reforms in the PNP. At present, only the first has been formed.

Maybe it is still too early to be wary, but we hope that her declaration to form the other bodies is not another "empty promise."

After the Oakwood siege last Sunday, all sorts of reactions were heard. But there was one common thing that came out: there are long-needed reforms both in the military and in the government. We reiterate that the people of the Philippines deserve to see determined steps toward these much-needed reforms and concrete mechanisms for their implementation. These reforms should ensure, above all else, the breaking of impunity and progressive realization of human rights.

—AURORA A. PARONG, M.D.,
executive director,
Task Force Detainees of the
Philippines, 45 Saint Mary St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

Hard evidence against the Gringo

THE ALLEGATION of Interior Secretary Joey Lina that Sen. Gregorio Honasan was behind last Sunday's failed coup should be taken with a grain of salt.

At any rate, I hope that Lina would be able to present truly reli-

able evidence to prove his accusation. That is to say, other than the mere fact that Honasan's National Recovery Program had served as inspiration for the young officers to stage their coup. Failing that, Lina would not have been far from

the Spaniards who prosecuted Rizal because his "Noli" and "Fili" had inspired Bonifacio to revolt against Spain.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St., Golden Country
Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

He always replied to our letters

WE mourn the death of Emmanuel Pelaez, an exemplary public servant, politician and ambassador.

One of the things we liked about Pelaez is that, unlike many public servants, politicians and diplomats, he always replied to

our letters.

We hope and pray that the Philippines will have more public servants, politicians and diplomats like Pelaez.

—OSCAR R. LANDICHO,
Sydney, Australia

Monuments of greatness

IN MANY parts of the world, nations honor and emulate those who made their nations proud. In the course of time, they even build monuments to remember them by. In this country, in general, people ignore or despise those who excelled and even try to de-

stroy what they have built for posterity, losing in the process the basis for the greatness of this nation.

—J. RENATO LEVISTE,
171 Fallarme St., Sab-Vicente
East, 5200 Calapan City,
Oriental Mindoro

Cops kept busy escorting VIPs

THIS is a reaction to the letter of Antonio A. Oposa Jr. in the July 29 issue of the INQUIRER, concerning the use of motorcycle-riding cops for illegal escort purposes. I would like to share a similar incident I witnessed last July 25 at the City Garden Hotel in Makati Avenue.

Apparently there was to be a wedding reception of some big shot that evening. When I arrived at the hotel late in the afternoon, traffic was in a gridlock due to the usual disappearing act of MMDA traffic enforcers, especially the yellow-jacketed Makati type, every time it rains.

I was surprised to see two policemen come out of the hotel lobby, mount their motorcycles with sirens blaring to clear a way through the traffic for a red Isuzu Highlander.

Some time later the Isuzu came back escorted again by the same two pot-bellied cops right up to the front door of the hotel. After

parking their bikes, these cops helped unload wedding gifts from the car onto a trolley which was brought to the hotel elevator. Obviously exhausted, they slipped into the lobby and lit up their cigarettes. With its officers busy acting as wedding attendants and funeral escorts, etc., it's no wonder criminals can easily walk out of a maximum security PNP detention center to freedom.

Later that evening a third motorcycle cop joined them in directing traffic just to allow wedding guests to move without being inconvenienced by the monstrous traffic gridlock that had built up on Makati Avenue and adjoining streets caused by these cops!

Why can PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane not stop such activities?

—ROBERT DIX,
Pangasinan

Don't forget other cases on coco levy

THE LAST Sandiganbayan decision on the UCPB case against Danding Cojuangco proves that our small coconut farmers can still hope to get justice from our courts. The reason why it took 17 years for the court to reach this decision is the hundreds of motions filed by Cojuangco's lawyers to delay or postpone litigation.

Cojuangco and his lawyers have as usual filed a Motion for Reconsideration on the recent decision. One can expect that the said motion will revolve around the premise that there was no trial, therefore they were not given due process.

I urge the Sandiganbayan to swiftly act on the Motion for Reconsideration filed by Cojuangco. And to prevent him from further delaying justice for the coconut farmers, the court must al-

so resolve the cases on shares that were purchased with coco levy funds, specifically those in San Miguel Corp. and other companies. The cases have been submitted for decision since May 2003.

There are also the cases on Bug-suk Farm and Unicom, which are now with the Supreme Court.

Even with the July 11 decision of the Sandiganbayan, the coconut farmers cannot afford to let their guards down. There remain several other cases involving the coco levy which still need to be resolved.

—LIZA C. CONDINO,
program officer 2,
Coconut Industry Reform (CIR)
Movement Inc.,
84 Unit 1 DN Masikap Ext.,
Barangay Central, Diliman,
Quezon City

Philippine
Airlines

PALakbayan

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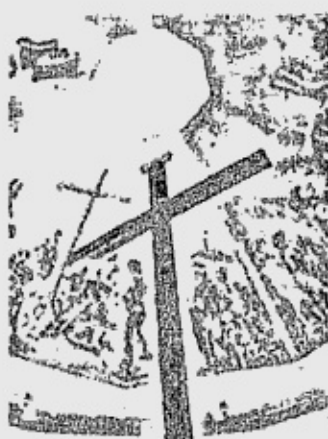
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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Al-Qaida official warns US on detainees

KUWAIT CITY—A new audiotape purportedly from Osama bin Laden's top deputy warns the United States that it will pay dearly if it harms detainees at Guantanamo Bay, and urges Muslims everywhere to avenge the prisoners from their "infidel" captors.

A tape that the Arab satellite station Al-Arabiya said was from Ayman al-Zawahri, a top official in Bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, said the threat was a response to Washington's announcement that it will start putting the detainees on military trials that could result in death sentences.

"I swear by the almighty God... that crusader America will pay dearly for any harm done to any of the Muslim prisoners it is holding," said the recording broadcast on Sunday.

It was not immediately possible to authenticate the tape.

An editor for the Dubai-based TV station, speaking on condi-

tion of anonymity, said Al-Arabiya received the tape late Saturday, but he did not say how the channel obtained it, nor where from. He also did not elaborate on why the station believed the tape was authentic.

But Montasser el-Zayat, a prominent Egyptian lawyer who represents Islamic fundamentalists, said he believed the voice on the tape was Al-Zawahri's because it had the same tone and "expressions."

"He is my friend and I know his voice well," El-Zayat said af-

ter listening to the tape.

The tape said all those who handed the prisoners to America or to any of its "agents" will also pay. "Let it be clear to those who conspire with America, that America cannot defend itself, let alone defend others."

It said every prisoner held by the "infidels" should know that his release is a "debt hanging from the neck of every" Muslim fighter and that "his brothers have not forgotten that they will avenge him from the new crusaders."

The Arabic recording said:

"But we tell America one thing: what you have seen so far is nothing but the first skirmishes. The real battle hasn't started yet."

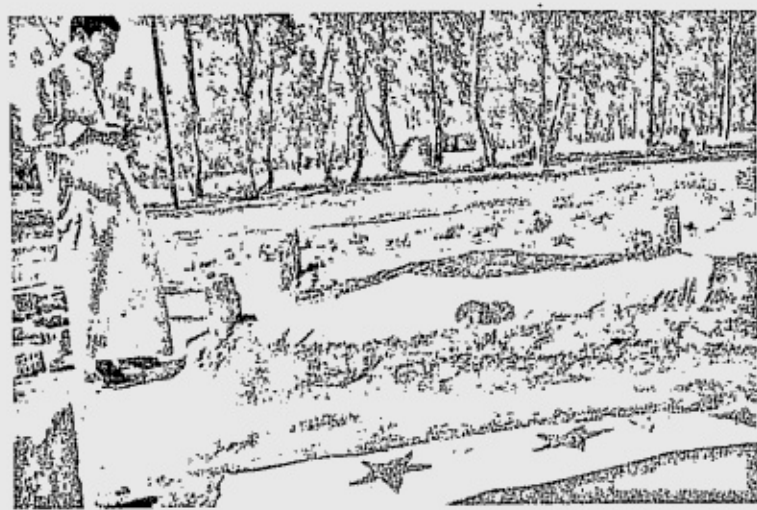
Al-Zawahri's whereabouts are not known. US officials believe Bin Laden, who was not mentioned in the latest audiotape, and Al-Zawahri are hiding in the wilderness between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

On July 3, the Pentagon announced US President George W. Bush had designated six prisoners to become the first terrorism suspects who could be tried be-

fore military tribunals. Trial dates have not been set. The six were not identified, but some were believed held at Guantanamo, where US officials are preparing a makeshift courtroom, a permanent detention facility and an execution chamber.

The tape's reference to the Guantanamo trials indicates it was made within the last month.

The tape warned Americans that if they were "keen on their future and the future of their generations... to follow reason and logic before it is too late." AP



A FAMILY member grieves as he recites pieces of the holy Koran over the graves of Saddam Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay and 14-year-old Mustafa Hussein, Qusay's son on Aug. 2, in Tikrit, 180 km north of Baghdad. Leaders of Saddam Hussein's tribe buried the ousted dictator's sons and grandson Saturday, their bodies wrapped in Iraqi flags in a sign the family considered them to be martyrs. AP

Memorial service for Uday, Qusay in Tikrit canceled

TIKRIT, Iraq—The leading cleric in Saddam Hussein's hometown has canceled a memorial service for the dead sons of the most wanted man in Iraq under pressure from the chief of the ousted dictator's tribe.

The decision came after Sheikh Yehya Ibrahim al-Attawi met one of the leaders of Saddam's tribe on Sunday.

"Mahmud al-Nada told me this morning that US forces do not want any gathering. There will be no memorial service" for Uday and Qusay, Attawi said.

"I insisted but the uncles and tribal leaders asked me not to do it," Attawi said. "I will respect their decision."

A memorial service for Monday had been advertised all over Tikrit, but Saddam's family backed down, in what may have been a condition imposed by the Americans for Uday, Qusay and the latter's 14-year-old son Mustapha, to be buried Saturday in Awja, the fugitive strongman's birthplace.

Attawi hammered the Americans for tightly controlling the mourning of Uday and Qusay, which the coalition fears could become a rallying point for Saddam supporters.

"They have promised to bring us democracy but this is no democracy. They are afraid of any gathering. They suspect everyone. They behave very badly. This is our

country," not theirs, the cleric said.

Two Iraqi flags covering the earthen graves of Saddam Hussein's slain sons were stolen in the night directly under the noses of US soldiers guarding the cemetery in the fallen dictator's birthplace.

Some bricks had been placed around the hard-dirt mounds where the bodies had been laid to rest in a low-key ceremony Saturday, which US troops barred onlookers from joining.

US soldiers searched cars Sunday as they left the grounds and said they had seen no one remove the Iraqi flags.

Residents of Saddam's birthplace complained about the presence of US soldiers and said they would not visit as long as the foreign troops guarded the plot, which the coalition fears could become a rallying point for Saddam loyalists.

"I have not gone there and will not go there as long as the soldiers are there," said grocer Walid Jassem.

Jassem accused the soldiers of stealing the flags from the graves.

"Nobody here would have done such thing. It is the Americans who have done that," he said.

The corpses of Uday and Qusay, and the latter's 14-year-old son Mustapha, were transported by US helicopter to Tikrit, 175 km north of Baghdad, by helicopter Saturday morning and then transferred to Awja. AFP

Militants end standoff at Arafat's compound

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian militants confined at Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound after refusing a request to leave will be allowed out of custody, a leader of the detained militants said Sunday.

Kamal Ghanam, a leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, said the militants would be allowed to remain at the compound and would agree to uphold a truce halting attacks on Israelis.

The 17 militants have been held at gunpoint in a room of the compound since early Saturday, when they refused a request from Arafat to move to the quiet West Bank town of Jericho, Ghanam said.

He said that under a deal negotiated between the Palestinian leadership and Israel with US mediation, the militants would be allowed to remain at the compound provided they had contact only with their families and refrained from violence.

According to Ghanam, Arafat asked the militants to leave to ease political pressure on the

Palestinian leader. Another detainee in the compound, speaking on condition of anonymity, said removing militants from the headquarters was an Israeli condition for allowing Arafat to travel.

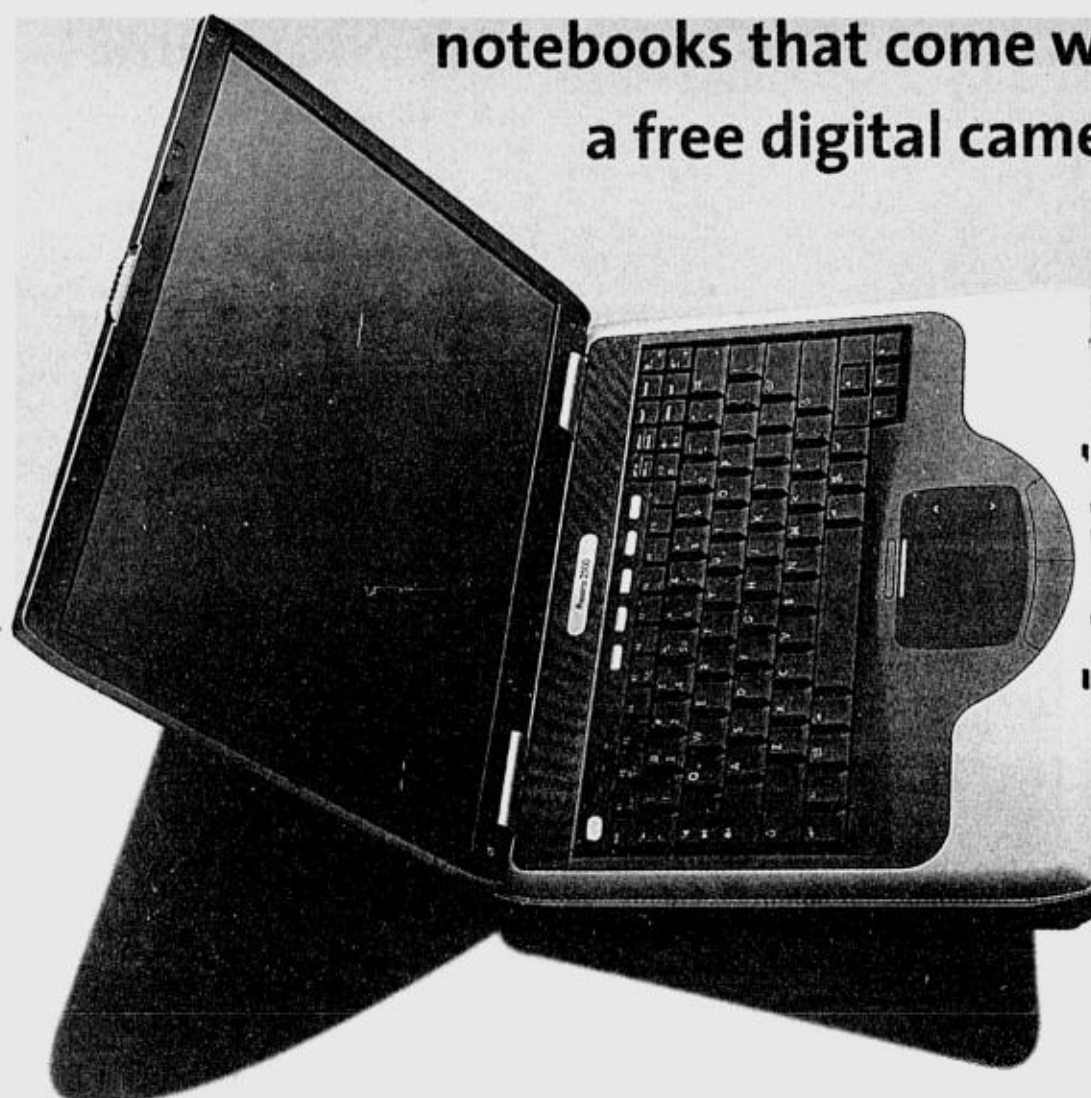
Arafat has been confined to his office building for the past year and a half, watching as Israeli forces knocked down almost all the buildings in the block-sized compound. Israel's position is that he can leave, but may not be allowed to return.

Israeli sources have suggested sending the militants to Jericho would ease the way to Israel withdrawing from Ramallah.

Under the US-backed "road map" peace plan, Israel has withdrawn from parts of the Gaza Strip and from the West Bank town of Bethlehem. But it is reluctant to pull out of more towns until the Palestinians dismantle militant groups, as required by the road map.

In the past, militants wanted by Israel have taken shelter at Arafat's compound. AP

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RUSSIA SUICIDE BOMBING

Death toll rises to 50; rescue called off

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia—Rescuers called off the search operation Sunday for victims of a suicide truck-bomb blast, after pulling the body of a surgical nurse out of the ruins of a military hospital near Chechnya and saying hope had disappeared of finding any survivors in the rubble.

With the discovery of the nurse's body and at least four others overnight, the death toll rose to 50, said Lt. Col. Yuri Miroshnichenko, spokesperson for the Emergency Situations Ministry in southern Russia. Sixty-four injured remained hospitalized, he said.

Authorities said they didn't expect to find any more bodies and the operation switched to a clean-up effort at the site of the four-story brick hospital, which collapsed like a house of cards when an unidentified driver rammed a truck full of explosives into it Friday night.

Russian officials said they suspected Chechen rebels were behind the attack at the hospital in the North Ossetia region city of Mozdok, since it bore similarities to other blasts and targeted a facility treating Russian soldiers injured fighting in Chechnya.

Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed Saturday that terrorists acts would not stop what he called efforts aimed at fostering peace in Chechnya, where Russian forces have battled separatists in two wars during the last decade.

In a condolence telegram, Putin called the bombing "yet another confirmation of the inhumanity and cruelty of the bandits who are trying to destabilize the

situation in the Northern Caucasus"—the region that includes Chechnya. A series of suicide bombings blamed on Chechen rebels—including last month's double suicide bombing at a rock festival in Moscow—have killed about 150 people since May.

"But the terrorists will not succeed in imposing their criminal will," said the telegram, distributed by Putin's press service.

Russian forces already control most of Chechnya, but they still suffer daily guerrilla attacks and the troops' tactics, which sometimes fail to distinguish between civilians and fighters, have alienated huge chunks of the Chechen population and drawn criticism from human rights groups.

Putin has refused to negotiate with rebels and has instead tried to sideline them. He endorsed a March constitutional referendum, which asked Chechens to approve their republic's status as part of Russia. The referendum overwhelmingly passed, according to official ballot results, and now will be followed by a regional presidential election scheduled on Oct. 5.

But Friday's attack was the latest blow to Russian authorities who have been at pains to show that stability is returning to Chechnya. Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said the disaster was compounded by military commanders' negligence in not enforcing security rules.

The attack prompted an order for round-the-clock patrols at hospitals, oil and energy facilities and major buildings across Chechnya, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.



A GENERAL view of the remains of a Russian military hospital destroyed by a suicide attack in Mozdok in Russia's North Ossetia region on Aug. 2.

Pakistan blast: 50 dead, 70 hurt

GILGIT, Pakistan—More than 50 people were killed and around 70 were injured on Sunday when explosives used in road works caught fire and detonated in a northern Pakistan village, causing several homes to collapse, officials and witnesses said.

Police said an electric short circuit triggered a pre-dawn fire in a house in Gayal village, 168 km south of Gilgit, which spread to a nearby building where the explosives were being stored.

Some 200 people rushed to extinguish the blaze and while they

were fighting the fire, the explosives—owned by a government contractor building roads—caught fire and exploded, witnesses said.

"Forty-five people were reported dead after the blast overnight and four died during transportation of casualties to the hospital," said Dr. Hamid Khan of the nearby Chilas valley district hospital.

"Three more died in our hospital early Sunday," the doctor told AFP by telephone.

Around 70 people were

brought to the Chilas hospital with serious injuries and "many have been referred to hospitals in Gilgit," Khan said.

"The casualties continued to pour in until late this morning," he said, adding that the facility was not properly equipped to handle the situation. "It was an unprecedented big disaster in the area."

The casualty medical officer said an emergency had been declared at the hospital and authorities had rushed in life-saving drugs and equipment.

India gas explosion topples 3 buildings

SURAT, India—Three buildings in western India collapsed when a cooking gas cylinder exploded Sunday, killing at least 17 people and injuring 43 others, police said.

Many more people were trapped in the debris and fire fighters, police and volunteers were helping in the rescue operations in the city of Surat in Gujarat state, police said.

"We fear that around 70 others are still trapped inside the fallen buildings," VK Gupta, Surat's police commissioner, said earlier.

Rescuers were using sniffer dogs to locate people trapped beneath concrete slabs and mounds of debris. Heavy-duty cranes have been brought to the blast site located in one of the most congested neighborhoods of Surat.

The powerful blast occurred at 3:30 a.m. local time when most of the people in the three-story buildings were asleep.

Gupta said the explosion appeared to be an accident. "Apparently it seems that it is not the handiwork of any terrorist organization," he said.

Surat, about 300 km north of the state capital, Gandhinagar, is a well-known center for the cutting and polishing of diamonds.

Around 100 people worked and lived in the buildings, said Manoj Sorathiya, a nearby resident.

"The ground floor of all the buildings are used for diamond cutting and polishing work and they use gas cylinders extensively," Sorathiya said.

WORLD BRIEFS

North Korea slams US official

SEOUL—Pyongyang called a senior American official "human scum" for criticizing North Korea's leader—but the reclusive communist nation said it would still join US-proposed multilateral talks on its suspected development of nuclear weapons. North Korea said Saturday that it won't deal with US Undersecretary of State John Bolton because he described the North's leader as a "tyrannical dictator" and said "life is a hellish nightmare" for many North Koreans. Bolton had made the remarks during his visit to South Korea last week. "Such human scum and bloodsucker is not entitled to take part in the talks," said a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson, according to the North's official KCNA news agency.

Taylor to quit on Aug. 11

MONROVIA, Liberia—Pressured by fellow West African leaders, President Charles Taylor promised to resign on Aug. 11 after the expected arrival of peacekeepers, as his forces stepped up their battle against rebels for Monrovia's port. As fighting surged in the city outside, Taylor—after meeting with West African envoys—told reporters Saturday at his lavish oceanside executive offices that he would hand over power after a joint session of Liberia's Congress next week. Taylor said he would step down the morning of Aug. 11 "and the new guy will have to be sworn in by midday."

Tropical storm lashes Taiwan

TAIPEI—Tropical storm Morakot lashed southern Taiwan on Sunday, whipping up waves and dumping heavy rains, weather officials said. More than 1,000 vacationers in southeastern Orchid and Green Islands were evacuated by ferry to the main island of Taiwan early Sunday, and resorts were shut down in southern Kenting, officials said.

Anwar party merges with ally

KUALA LUMPUR—Seeking broader support, the party led by the wife of jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday merged with one of Malaysia's oldest opposition groups to form a new party. The merger is part of the opposition's efforts to challenge the government in general elections expected early next year following Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's scheduled retirement in October. After two years of negotiations, opposition leaders held a jubilant ceremony to launch the People's Justice Party—a marriage between the National Justice Party founded by Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, and the nearly 50-year-old Malaysian People's Party.

American newsman freed in Aceh

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—An American freelance journalist was freed Sunday after being jailed for more than a month for violating his visa by contacting separatist rebels in Indonesia's Aceh province. William Nessen, looking slightly pale and weak, left a police hospital where he was treated for kidney stones for his last three days in custody. Asked whether he will return to Aceh soon, Nessen, a 46-year-old New York City native, told reporters that he wanted to spend time with his parents in New York before making any decision.

'Baghdad Terminator'

BAGHDAD—Bernard Kerik was dubbed the "Baghdad Terminator" after he summarily dismissed a newly reinstated Iraqi official who turned out to be a member of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. A British journalist happened to be there and the ex-New York police commissioner had a new unofficial title. "If you're going to criticize me for terminating Baath Party members, go ahead. I like that," Kerik told a reporter accompanying him on his day's rounds. "You can't please everyone. We're in Iraq; this is a war zone. Perhaps you can do things nicely, but there are times you can't."

Lindbergh's double life

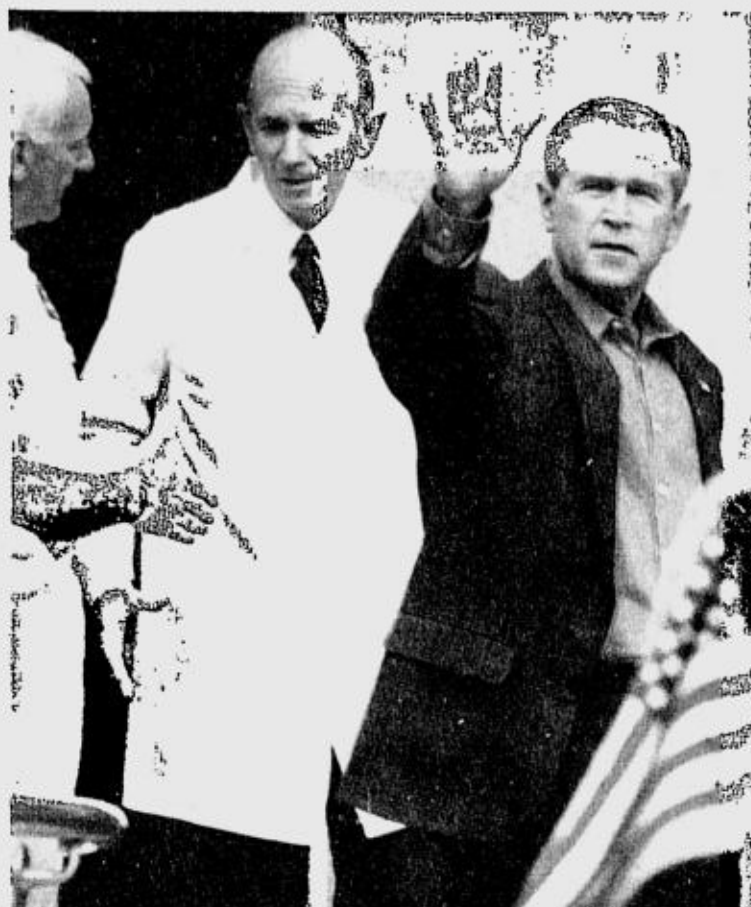
BERLIN—Aviation legend Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, led a secret double life with a German woman who bore him three children, Germany's Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported. The paper said Lindbergh, whose solo flight from New York to Paris in 1927 earned him an undying place in aviation history, met Brigitte Heschlmer, a Munich hatmaker in 1935 when he was 55 but kept the relationship secret up to his death in 1974. It said Heschlmer's daughter, Astrid Bouteuil, had more than 100 letters which she said were from Lindbergh but had promised not to reveal the secret in her mother's lifetime. Reuters did not see the letters and could not independently verify their authenticity.

Basque rebels claim 5 attacks

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain—The armed Basque separatist organization ETA claimed responsibility for five bomb attacks, including two against hotels in the popular tourist resorts of Alicante and Benidorm on July 22. In a communiqué published Sunday by the Basque language paper Berria, ETA also accused the organizers of the Tour de France of "humiliating" the Basque people by reneging on an agreement struck with radical Basque separatists of ETA's political wing Batasuna party, now banned in Spain.

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PRESIDENT Bush waves to reporters as he leaves the National Naval Medical Center followed by Dr. Kenneth Cooper (center) and Rear Adm. Don Arthur, commander of the medical center, in Bethesda, Maryland.

ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM

Bush in excellent health

WASHINGTON—He may have gained 5 pounds (2 kg), but US President George W. Bush is in top condition, according to doctors who gave Bush his annual physical examination.

"The president remains in excellent health and fit for duty," the doctors said in a statement on Saturday after testing Bush for almost three hours at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. "All data suggest that he will remain so for the duration of his presidency."

Bush flew to his Crawford, Texas, ranch right after finishing the exam.

Bush, 57, has gained 5 pounds, going from 189 pounds a year ago to 194 pounds today, but his body fat percentage remains the same at 14.5 percent, the doctors said.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said the weight gain was due to muscle mass. A fitness advocate and nondrinker, Bush makes a short, 3-mile (5-km) run almost daily and started

lifting weights last year.

He runs fairly fast for an amateur, running a seven and a half minute mile, according to McClellan.

Most men over the age of 40 risk heart disease more than any other illness, but the test results suggest Bush is at extremely low risk of developing a heart problem.

He still has an unusually slow resting heart rate of 45 beats per minute, which experts say is probably a reflection of his fit condition. His blood pressure is also a healthy 110 over 62.

His total cholesterol was 167, with levels of "good" HDL cholesterol at 45 and "bad" LDL at 112—all within desirable limits.

He had four small lesions called actinic keratoses—usually caused by the sun—taken off his cheeks and left arm with liquid nitrogen. Such growths are usually removed because they can, eventually, develop into squamous cell skin cancer. **Reuters**

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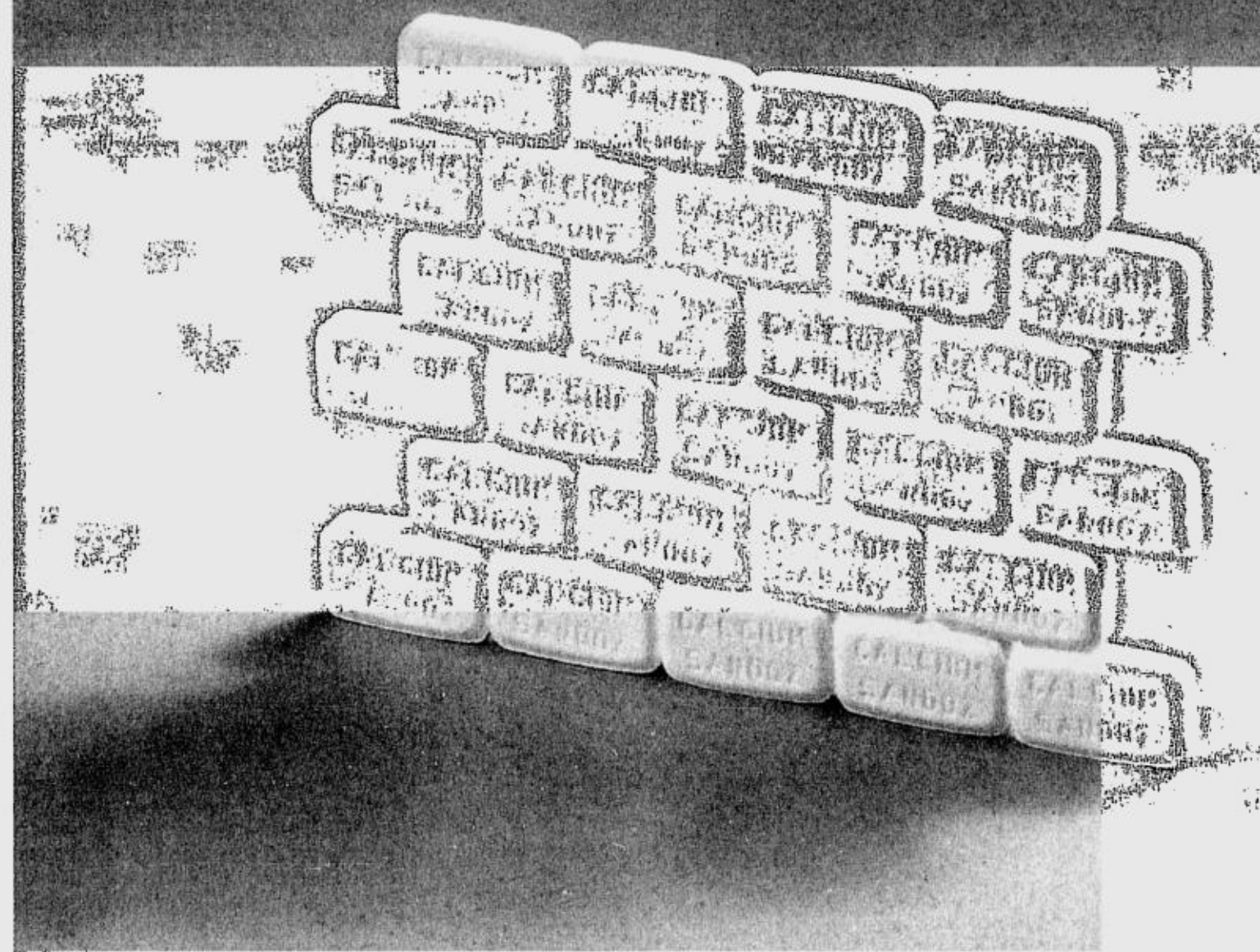
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

GRP-MILF TALKS

'Bush wants to see peace pact signing'

COTABATO CITY—US President George W. Bush wants to witness the signing of the final peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

A five-man team, representing the US, had relayed Bush's message during a meeting with MILF negotiators here a few days ago, according to former Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Alunan Glang.

Glang said he came to know

about the meeting between the Americans and MILF negotiators from his conversations with MILF legal counsel Lanang Ali.

"A group of Americans, which they (MILF) consider an advance party of Bush arrived in Cotabato

City a few days ago. They advised members of the MILF (panel) not to raise the issue of sovereignty when they sit down in the final part because it will derail the negotiation," Glang said.

Glang said he could not recall the names of the Americans but "they also work with the United States Agency for International Development, which is handling

million of aids for MILF and Moro National Liberation Front."

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Bush also told her he was willing to witness the signing of a peace accord between the government and MILF when he visits the Philippines in October.

The government has set a 90-day deadline for its negotiators to convince the MILF to sign a final

peace deal.

Glang said after the meeting, former Maguindanao representative and MILF peace panel member Michael Mastura, asked him for a possible position the MILF could take when talks finally resume in Kuala Lumpur this month.

"I (told) him I am not the right person to recommend. But, I told him that if I have to recall my con-

versation with the late Malaysian Prime Minister Tunko Abdulrahman, the leader (told) me he was aware of the problem of the Bangsamoro people in Mindanao and the best solution would be (the formation of) a federal (government). And of course the ultimate solution is a referendum," he said. *Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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2. The Money Transfer Control Number (MTCN) found in every "Receive" transaction will serve as an official entry to the computer-generated raffle draw. Forms containing the MTCN will serve as proof of transaction. No need to fill out any raffle stub or ticket.

3. Promo Period: June 1 - August 31, 2003 (3 months)

4. The drawing of winners will be computer generated. There will be one (1) grand draw to be held on September 11, 2003 and will be televised over a popular noontime TV variety show, "Eat Bulaga".

5. A total of 20 winners will be drawn for the entire promotional period. Draws will be conducted in the presence of a DTI representative, Western Union representative, and representatives from Jimenez D'Arcy.

6. Employees of Jimenez D'Arcy, Western

Union, and participating Western Union agents including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

7. A participant can only win once.

8. Winners shall be asked to present their "To Receive" forms bearing the corresponding Money Transfer Control Number (MTCN) plus any of the following identification papers (School ID, passport, driver's license, or any valid ID with picture).

9. Draws will be televised over a popular noontime TV variety show: "Eat Bulaga". Winners' names will be announced via print ads and will be

notified by registered mail as to where they can claim the prize. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from notification. GMA winners can claim their prize at the Western Union Country Office, 38 Floor PhilamLife Bldg., Paseo De Roxas, Makati City at telephone number: 8140527. For provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the nearest Promo Edge Corporation office specified in the registered notice. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Western Union with prior approval of DTI.

10. Western Union shall pay the 20% tax due on prizes exceeding P10,000.00

Traders to help Mindanao up exports to China

DAVAO CITY—The United States-funded Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) said it would help the country, particularly the Mindanao agriculture sector, to increase the Philippines' exports to China.

Guia Minguez, of the China/export markets under the GEM-2 program, said their main objective was to triple the country's 2002 export volume to China and attain a growth of 10 percent per year after that.

She said that a number of opportunities exist for the Philippines to increase its exports in agricultural products such as banana, pineapple, mango, durian, natural fiber, coconut oil and coconut oil but these have not been fully exploited.

She said there are a number of strategies that the country could adopt to attain growth in the export market including the establishment of a market information or baseline data; conduct of market assessment and promotions; and product development, trials and integration.

It would be in these areas that GEM could assist.

Minguez said the government could also do its share to ensure an increase in the country's exports to China.

"(The Philippines must) identify and advocate for removal of barriers to export competitiveness such as tariff and non-tariff barriers, shipping, etc," Minguez said.

Minguez also enumerated a set of tips in doing business in China including being patient and polite; recognizing hierarchy; activating local networks; building up product image; adopting niche marketing; and their products should have Mandarin translations.

"All products sold in China must be marked in Chinese. The product name, country of origin, and the name and address of the importer and distributor in China must be in Chinese," she said. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Family of dead OFW seeks gov't help

LEGAZPI CITY—Osmundo Hugo Occiano II, an architect who worked in al-Dannam, Saudi Arabia, would have turned 27 last July 28.

But what could have been a joyful celebration on his return turned into anguish as he arrived home inside a coffin after he died in a vehicular accident in Saudi Arabia. Doubtful of the real cause of his death, Occiano II's family is now seeking government help to investigate his case.

Osmundo Occiano Sr., 61, victim's father, said he noted that the death report and embalming certificate were "somewhat confusing."

Occiano Sr. said the death report stated that his son died at 4:24 p.m., July 5. However, the Saudi national government told them that Occiano II died on July 7, and the embalming certificate disclosed that it happened on "7/7/1420hrs."

"We were really confused because we were informed that my son died on July 7. But his friend, a fellow Bicolano architect who was also based at al-Dannam, said he really died on July 5 because he was in the morgue at that time and was able to see my son. In fact, he was the one who followed up and confirmed if indeed it was his friend who died in that reported accident," Occiano Sr. said.

He identified the suspect as Ahmen Abraham Washim Asharin, a Saudi national who drove the car with plate number EQZC741 during the accident.

Occiano Sr. said the suspect was brought inside the Jeddah detention center, but a close friend of his son, said two days after the incident the case was already declared dismissed and the suspect was considered free.

He added that from the time his son's body was brought to the hospital, his friends were not even allowed to verify and claim his body in the morgue.

The Occiano family claimed that they did not have the chance to follow up the case since only one person from the Department of Foreign Affairs was helping them, a certain Ramon Nerita, who is assigned in Riyadh. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

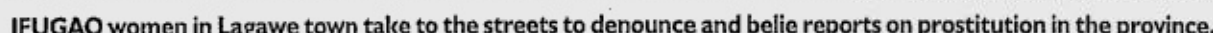
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By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Members of the women's group Innabuyog-Gabriela also said their office had received reports that girls, with ages from 14 to 16, had offered sex in exchange for P30. These reports were supposedly based on studies conducted by the Department of Social

"We have an association of nightclubs in Batangas. If I were you, just be quiet. Even the police and the local media here are in our

"No Ifugao parent would allow his or her children to engage in prostitution. We may be poor but we still protect our dignity," Munar said.

Florendo said people have even approached her to complain of the nude and bold shows in the city's nightclubs. **Me**
Massino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Almendares said farmers decided to replant after Chedeng's onslaught because of excess water. However, when the palay were already in their seedling and vegetative stages, Typhoon Harurot devastated the province and damaged 23 hectares of ricelands.

Marcelino Gapultos, Iselco 2 manager said their 45-day schedule to fully restore power in Isabelá would be shortened. **Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes with a report from Villamor Visaya Jr., PD, Northern Luzon Bureau**

ADMT

Cops seize firearms from GenSan farmers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Central Mindanao on Saturday seized assorted high-powered firearms and bullets during a raid in Barangay Sinawal.

Supt. Jose Pante, CIDG Central Mindanao director, told reporters that the raid was covered by search warrants issued on July 31 by Judge Oscar Noel Jr. of the Regional Trial Court Branch 3.

Pante said they applied for the warrants after receiving intelligence reports that some tribal residents of Sitio Cabuay in Sinawal were keeping high-powered firearms.

The residents were among thousands of occupants of the controversial 642-hectare Alcantara ranch covered by Forest Land Grazing Lease Agreement (FLGLA) 552 that was earlier declared by the Supreme Court part of the B'laan tribe's ancestral domain.

The CIDG managed to secure from the court five search warrants, but only two of the houses raided yielded positive results.

The policemen seized three .45 cal. pistols, a 12-gauge shotgun, a .357 cal. homemade gun, assorted ammunition, a bullet proof vest and a US-made camouflage uniform from the house of Alber-

to Bantilan, 60, a farmer and tribal leader.

Pante said they also recovered two Garand rifles, a Carbine rifle and assorted bullets from the house of Dino Makantal, 39, a farmer.

Pante said the firearms were covered by memorandum receipts issued by a certain Maj. Joel Dela Torre, head of the Intelligence and Security Unit of the Philippine Army based in PC Hill, Cotabato City.

Pante questioned the authority of Bantilan and Makantal to possess such number and kind of firearms. *Aguiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Anti-coup watch takes funny twist



CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Two of three information on troop movement received by policemen assigned in "observation posts" set up along the major routes in the region since Friday night proved to be false, if not relieving or amusing, the top regional police official said.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said Army personnel on board two trucks bound for Manila left their base in Bulacan only to "fetch water," he said.

Querol said the second information on four Army officials and several soldiers aboard two jeeps, also from Bulacan, said they

went to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija for training. The third information, about Cagayan Valley-based Army troops leaving for Metro Manila, was still being verified, he said.

"This is a time for a lot of information. I urge the civilians not to take all information hook, line and sinker," Querol said. "May kuryente diyan (There could be false information)."

To efficiently manage and verify the information related to supposed destabilization plots, he said the regional police have organized civilian monitoring groups. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Army sergeant slain in clash with rebels

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An Army sergeant was killed and another soldier injured when government troops clashed on Wednesday with suspected New People's Army rebels in a hinterland village in Tapaz, Capiz.

Lt. Col. Romeo Gan, commander of the Army's 12th Infantry Battalion (IB), said the lone fatality, Staff Sgt. Larry Tenate, suffered a bullet wound in the chest. His remains were taken to the St. Therese Memorial Chapel in Molo District.

A bullet grazed the right cheek of Pfc. Randy Lanag who was treated at a clinic in the Tapaz town proper.

Gan said Tenate was leading a nine-member team of soldiers conducting reconnaissance operations when they clashed with about 10 NPA rebels at around 5 a.m. in Barangay Abangay, Tapaz.

The village can be reached after a 30-minute ride and a two-hour trek from the town proper.

He said the patrol was dispatched after they received reports of sightings of NPA rebels in the area. They encountered the rebels near the Panay Creek triggering a 10-minute firefight.

More soldiers under the 12th IB were sent to pursue the rebels who withdrew to the mountainous area of Tapaz while firing at the soldiers.

Gan said they believed that the rebels suffered casualties because of the bloodstains found in the scene of the firefight.

This was the first clash between government troops and the NPA on Panay Island since Feb. 24 when six soldiers including an Army captain were killed in an NPA ambush along the Sibaguan Creek in Barangay Daan Sur in the same municipality.

Ismaelito Giganto, the commander of the NPA's Jose Percival Estocada Command, the rebel unit operating in Central Panay, and a militiaman were also killed in the firefight.

Gan said the rebels were believed to be led by Giganto's son, Oliver, who also took part in the Feb. 24 ambush.

The Communist Party of the Philippines earlier instructed its armed wing, the NPA, to exploit and exacerbate contradictions within the Armed Forces of the Philippines after 321 of its junior officers and enlisted men launched a failed mutiny at the Ayala Center in Makati City last Sunday.

Bodies of 2 women found in burned condo

BAGUIO CITY—Two women vacationists from Metro Manila were murdered and their bodies burned in a condominium in Brentwood Subdivision last week, police said.

Their charred bodies were found on Wednesday night in the toilet of a condominium unit that was damaged by the fire.

Senior Insp. David Mariano, chief of Station 3 of the city police, said it was the fire department that was first contacted by tenants of the Townhouse Condominium.

After firemen put out the fire, police investigators looked for clues for arson. What they found instead were chopped up bodies of two women partially burned among the mattresses and clothes in the toilet.

Mariano said the bodies could have been hacked and dumped in the comfort room.

The killers then tried to burn the bodies by torching the mattresses and the clothes.

Police identified the bodies as those of Analyn Villegas Torres and Imelda Dacula.

Police said Torres suffered wounds on the neck, left arm and left knee. Her arms were tied with electrical cord.

Dacula had lacerated wounds on the head and her hands were tied with the cord of a cellular phone charger.

The women could have been dead a day or two before their bodies were found, Mariano said.

Investigators found no signs of forced entry in the condominium house.

The townhouse administrator reportedly told the police that he was asked by a utility worker to check on the house as he had to leave for an urgent appointment.

The worker reportedly said the two visitors were supposed to leave on July 29 but stayed on for another day to check on workers to fix their locks. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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Pols warned not to seek NPA aid in 2004 polls

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Army's top commander in North Luzon warned politicians not to seek the support of the New People's Army in courting votes in rebel-influenced or infiltrated areas in the 2004 elections.

"It's human nature, it's in the culture that they do everything to win in the elections. If they continue sleeping with the enemy, there will be time for reckoning for that," said Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

He did not say what punishment awaits politicians who get backing from the rebels.

Dominguez described the NPA rebels as "more deadly enemies" than mutineers from the Armed Forces.

In last Sunday's failed mutiny in Makati City, he said the communist guerrillas had tried to "move in but took a wait-and-see attitude when they saw the organized actions of the military and the police in quelling the rebellion."

He said insurgency in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera and Central Luzon was on a

downtrend, with rebels numbering a little over 1,000.

The number includes guerrillas from the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the NPA's rival group. Although not all are armed, they have political links, Dominguez said. He did not elaborate.

In early July, Dominguez confirmed that the Army was preparing a watch list of people and organizations serving as legal fronts of communist rebels.

Priority, he said, was in the monitoring of those who were working in the government.

Dominguez said the Army had identified several barangay chairs in Northern Luzon who have links with NPA rebels.

In Central Luzon, the Army estimated that rebels operate in 344 villages.

Armed Forces vice chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, then former Nolcom chief, had said the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the NPA, had tried strengthening their grassroots presence and control of the villages through the July 15 barangay elections.

Rebels, according to the Army reports, collected from P5,000 to P300,000 for permits to campaign during the 2001 elections.

Quezon police heighten alert against NPA attacks

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Federico Terte declared a red alert following reports that the communist New People's Army rebels would stage a series of attacks in the province.

This, after at least 20 heavily armed men suspected to be communist guerrillas belonging to the NPA's Maria Theresa de Leon Command burned the farmhouse of Mayor Sergio Emprese of San Andres town on Thursday.

Police said the rebels also seized one Icom base-radio, an antenna and at least eight imported fighting cocks.

The report did not say if Emprese was present during the attack. No one was reported wounded.

Terte said they had received information from a highly placed source inside the revolutionary movement that the rebels were planning to attack any of the municipalities in Quezon.

He said he had already alerted all police forces of the possible communist offensives. He ordered tight security on two power plants in Pagbilao and Mauban towns.

In a radio report, Chief Supt. Jaime Carinag, Calabarzon police director, identified the

towns of Lucban, Tayabas and Pagbilao as possible targets of simultaneous attacks by the NPA rebels.

Caringal said plans of similar raids on police detachments in Real and Sariaya were also uncovered.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal earlier warned that with the formation of the NPA "regional strike force," more tactical offensives against government forces were forthcoming.

"This, they have to watch out. This NPA regional strike force is composed of battle-tested Red fighters in a particular region," Rosal told the INQUIRER in an earlier phone interview.

Exiled communist founder Jose Ma. Sison last week warned in a statement that the communist guerrillas would be able "to wipe out more of the reactionary armed forces when the NPA regional strike units get into full swing and use scores of guerrilla fronts as staging areas for tactical offensives."

Rosal said there were at least 20 guerrilla fronts in Quezon. "Each guerrilla front will share their best fighters during the formation of these regional strike force for any tactical offensive assignments," he said.

"The members of the regional strike force are on stand-by call and ready to join the rest of the main unit," Rosal said.

Camarines police check force

NAGA CITY—Police authorities in Camarines Sur have started to make an accounting of their forces, verify their whereabouts, and update their status in their places of assignment.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla, provincial police director, said his office was implementing the internal security procedure in response to a double red alert declaration while the country continued to be under a state of rebellion.

Rongavilla said he had also instructed teams from his office to closely monitor troop movements in the province, verify the soldiers' missions from their units of origin and report to higher authorities anomalous activities in progress.

He said he had directed all police units of the 35 towns and two cities in the province to set up at least one checkpoint in every major road route traversing the province.

Rongavilla said he had also ordered heightened alert at the checkpoints established along Maharlika and Quirino highways in the towns of Del Gallego to Sipocot and Daet to Sipocot, going down south to the provincial boundary in the town of Bato.

The two major highways are the province's gateways to Manila.

Vehicles coming from Manila and going to the Visayas and Mindanao also traverse the highways that connect Bicol to the southern regions through a roll-on, roll-off service in Matnog town.

Rongavilla said he had instructed police officers, who are in full-battle gear and assigned to man the checkpoints, to exercise sound judgment and discretion in determining which vehicles were to be subjected to full scrutiny.

But, he said, maximum tolerance was being used in the security procedure that the police office adopted so as not to alarm motorists and passengers.

Rongavilla said a random check of the vehicles and passengers ordered to a full stop at the checkpoints would be based on the discretion of the officers-in-charge and in accordance with basic democratic procedures.

On Saturday, the heightened alert situation was apparent at the provincial police headquarters. Two 50 cal. machine guns have been mounted at the gates and more police officers have been in full-battle gear. Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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LOWER LAND TAX ASSESSMENT

BIR exec in Olongapo held for extortion

OLONGAPO CITY—An officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue office was arrested on Friday by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation for allegedly trying to extort P60,000 from a woman who was transacting business with the agency.

The suspect, identified as Miriam Bangalan, receiving officer of the BIR office in this city, was caught receiving P25,000 worth of marked bills from Eden Paradeza, a resident of Palauig, Zambales.

Paradeza said Bangalan asked the money in exchange for a lower tax assessment on the two parcels of

land that Paradeza had bought.

Reports said that on July 10, Paradeza went to the BIR office and talked with Bangalan to inquire on the tax payments.

After studying the deeds of sale, Bangalan reportedly told Paradeza that each land was subject to P50,000 tax. But Bangalan reportedly told Paradeza that she could lower the assessment to P7,500 each if the latter paid an additional P30,000 for each deed of sale.

When Paradeza asked for an explanation about the proposed transaction, Bangalan presented revenue

officer Perfecto Vitug, whom she introduced as her supervisor.

Vitug and Bangalan, Paradeza claimed, explained to her that the additional P60,000 would be divided among an official and several employees in their regional office to facilitate her transaction.

Paradeza claimed that both threatened to give her a difficult time in processing the release of her tax clearance certificates if she insisted on paying the actual taxes.

Paradeza said she was forced to agree to the proposal because of the threats. She said she asked the BIR

officials to accept an initial amount of P17,000.

She said Bangalan and Vitug accepted the money without giving her a receipt.

On July 18, after receiving several threats from the BIR officials, Paradeza was again forced to give P13,000 to Bangalan to process the tax clearance for the remaining sales transaction.

Paradeza said she sought the help of the NBI after she had given Bangalan a total of P30,000. An entrapment operation was conducted on Friday, where Bangalan was

caught receiving the P25,000 worth of marked money inside her office.

Bangalan was found positive for ultraviolet powder that the NBI used to mark the bills, investigators said.

Charges of robbery and extortion and violation of the anti-graft and corrupt practices act were filed against Bangalan before the city prosecutor's office, according to lawyer Richard Paradeza, the victim's brother-in-law.

Paradeza said they filed similar charges against Vitug, who is still at large. **Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Countdown for justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 448 days today since Pagan journalist Edgar Damarillo was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

P4-M narra lumber seized in Vizcaya watershed area

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Some P4 million worth of narra flitches illegally cut from the forests of southeastern Nueva Vizcaya had been seized from furniture shops in the province, environment officials said on Friday.

Nicasio Pascua, outgoing provincial environment officer, said environment employees, police and soldiers seized about more than 32,000 pieces of narra from four furniture shops in the upland Barangay of Pelaway in Alfonso Castañeda town, about 170 km from this capital town.

The more than 54 cubic meters of narra, cut into lumber, flitches and stumps, were suspected to have been cut from the forests of Barangays Pelaway and Cawayan within the lower Cascanan Watershed.

Environment officials said they were preparing illegal logging charges against the owners of the lumber who are all furniture traders from Quirino.

The bulk of the haul, at 32.16 cu m, was taken from the furniture shop reportedly owned by one of the suspects. About 6 cu m of narra lumber were found abandoned near the banks of the Cascanan River.

Sources said the lucrative narra trade in the area has lured not only members of the Bugkalot tribe but also government personnel, including forest rangers and policemen, to illegal logging.

Traders from Nueva Ecija and Quirino buy narra flitches from Bugkalot natives at P16 per board ft. They then convert and sell these as wooden furniture, or smuggle them out of the area as

raw lumber for buyers in Metro Manila, where the price could reach as high as P125 per board foot.

Environment officials said they were also investigating the possible involvement of officials of the Bugkalot Ancestral Land Domain Association of Alfonso Castañeda (Baldaac), based in Barangay Pelaway.

Baldaac is a people's organization granted rights to harvest a limited volume of forest products in the watershed area under the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The program was intended to provide livelihood assistance to the Bugkalot tribe members through a furniture and rattan industry, to recognize their ancestral domain rights while ensuring the sustainable use of the watershed forests.

But Rolando Valdez, community environment officer, said Baldaac officials would have to explain the existence of a large volume of narra lumber seized in the area, which exceeded the 17 cu m they declared as remaining stock in March.

Valdez said he has called for the relief of six DENR personnel assigned in the area, amid suspicion of connivance and bribery.

"They are now being investigated, and will face administrative charges. It's very disgusting that despite the persistent reports (of narra smuggling), they have not caught a single suspect," Valdez told the INQUIRER.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



FORBIDDEN GRASS

These 34 kilograms of marijuana bricks, which allegedly came from Ifugao province, would have made its way to Manila on board a bus if not discovered by police and Army soldiers who have put up a checkpoint at the Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya on the night of the failed mutiny.

GEN MOSES EBREO

Quarry to remain under Lapid control, says DENR secretary

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—For the second time, Gov. Manuel Lapid won the fight in the control of Pampanga's quarry industry. Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun clarified that the task rests "primarily on the provincial government."

"It is still with the local government. The (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) only has a support role," Gozun told reporters after the launch of a recycling project in this city on Friday night.

Without specifying Lapid, she said local officials were "quite misled" by Executive Order 224, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on July 4.

In the order, the President designated the regional director of DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau as "team leader" of the quarry task force and the governors of sand-rich Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales as "deputy team leaders."

"They thought the DENR is taking (the management of the quarry industry) away from our local government. That is not really the intention. It will still be the provincial government," Gozun explained.

The quarry industry, thriving for two decades before Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991, made money out of sand that was abundant in three major rivers connected to the watersheds of the volcano.

Lapid, as a first-term governor in 1995, organized the provincial quarry task force, collecting P40 for every truck of sand hauled out of the province. About 2,000 trucks haul sand out of Pampanga daily.

Barely two months in his second term in 1998, Lapid was accused by his advisers of graft in connection with quarry revenues.

In February 1999, Lapid lost control over the multimillion-peso business as former President Joseph Estrada issued Proclamation 66. Estrada transferred the management of the quarry industry to DENR's Natural Resources Development Corp. while retaining the respective shares of the provincial, municipal and barangay governments.

Lapid, asserting the mandate he has under the Local Government Code of 1991, regained control of the industry, through the court in December 2001 and

through Ms Macapagal's Proclamation 183 in April 2002.

Still, Gozun indicated that the Lapid administration would not have sole responsibility over the industry.

"There is change in the sense that there is the task force. The DENR has an involvement. What we have now is partnership. It's working together," she explained.

Gozun said the DENR had held two meetings with Lapid since he protested EO 224 starting July 15. The meetings sought to finalize the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Ms Macapagal's order.

"(At this stage in the formulation of) the IRR, it's really fleshing out the duties and responsibilities of the different partners," the secretary said.

Even as Gozun clarified the policy, everything seemed to be well between the President and Lapid.

On Thursday when Ms Macapagal went to Pampanga to inspect dredging projects in Mexico town, the President did not pull her hand away when Lapid made his signature pagmamano (kissing of hand). **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

3 kids die in landslide

MATI, Davao Oriental—Three children were killed while six others survived when a landslide buried a house in the hinterland village of Central in Mati town on Sunday morning.

The Onofre family was sleeping, along with three visiting relatives, inside their house in Purok Upper Salazar when loose soil caused a huge boulder to roll towards the house.

The accident took place at about 3 a.m. on Sunday near the biggest mosque in Mati. All the victims, aged 5 to 95 years old were Muslim.

Rene Onofre, 13, one of the six survivors, said his parents did not expect the huge boulders located a few meters above their house to

fall.

"We have been living in this house for almost 15 years and this thing did not happen," Rene said in between sobs at the provincial hospital, where he and the other survivors were rushed.

The fatalities were Rene's two sisters and the 5-year-old child of their visiting relatives.

It took rescuers more than three hours before the badly mangled bodies of the fatalities were recovered.

Mayor Francisco Rabat gave P5,000 in financial assistance to the family of the victims while provincial board member Anaclet Macatabog donated two sacks of rice and medicines. **Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Cavite 'exorcises' Muslim community of drug menace



STUDENTS and out of school youth rally against drug in Cavite.

COURTESY OF CAVITE POLICE OFFICE

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales on Thursday warned drug pushers and users that they have no place in his province.

Rosales led more than 2,000 ralliers, mostly students in denouncing drug peddlers residing in Barangay Datu Ismael, said to be the biggest Muslim community outside Metro Manila.

"We want to show the public that we are dead serious in making the streets in our province drug-free. This is part of our no let-up campaign against drug pushers. We encourage the parents, students, church people and other community sectors to take part in the campaign to ensure success," Rosales told the INQUIRER.

During her State of the Nation address last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded Rosales for his contribution in the government's intensified campaign

against drug syndicates. The President called him the "drug czar" after he led the busting of two illegal drug factories in Cavite, including one in Tanza town which officials identified as the grandmother of all drug laboratories in the country. Ms Macapagal also commended him for refusing a hefty sum of money that drug lords used to lure him into cooperating with the drug syndicate.

Majority of those who attended the rally, which was a sort of "exorcising" the community of drug menace, were students and young people from Dasmariñas and nearby towns.

Rosales denied accusations that they are singling out Muslim communities in their campaign. He said it just so happened that intelligence reports point to Muslim settlements as a major source of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), marijuana and oth-

er illegal drugs.

Instead of spray painting the house of suspected drug pusher with embarrassing expressions, Rosales said they opted to spray paint the houses of those who support their illegal drugs campaign.

The ralliers went in front of the houses of "supporters," congratulated the households for doing so, and spray painted the house with "We support the illegal drug campaign of the government."

Rosales said village officials requested for the project and that majority of the Muslim settlers supported their initiatives. Rosales said around 400 policemen trooped to the Muslim area with 19 search warrants. The operation resulted in the arrest of three most wanted persons and confiscation of undetermined amount of shabu and drug paraphernalia. **Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

ROUNDUP

Marijuana uprooted

BAGUIO CITY—Police destroyed P46.4 million worth of marijuana plants and seedlings in a three-day eradication drive in Sadanga, Mt. Province last week. A report from the Cordillera police office said policemen uprooted at least 200,000 fully grown marijuana and 160,000 seedlings in Mt. Wayangan in Sadanga. The report claimed that the plantation was protected by New People's Army rebels. In Abra, police arrested two persons in Bangue town for possessing P28,840 worth of shabu. The suspects were identified as Elordi Cadiz, 41, and Claudia Pineda, 28.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop chief sacked

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—The police chief of Norzagaray town was relieved after three inmates escaped from the municipal jail last week. Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, relieved Chief Insp. Noli Pacheco, Norzagaray police chief, after the escape of Evangelina Medalle, 30; Mary Anne Duena, 28; and Jovy Montino, 24, on July 29. The suspects were detained for illegal drug use and trade charges. The inmates escaped by sawing off their cell's iron grills. Pacheco was replaced by Supt. Ramon Bibit. **Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

P5M lost in fire

ILAGAN, Isabela—A two-hour fire razed four houses and the two-story building of the National Statistics Office in Barangay Centro on Thursday night. Reports said the fire destroyed at least P5 million worth of property. Chief Insp. Juan Alobba, Ilagan police chief, said the fire started when a boy in one of the houses played with a lighted candle. Alobba said their reports indicated that the candle burned the curtains of a room, causing the fire to spread quickly. No one was reported hurt in the fire that started at 10:30 p.m. Rodolfo Florentino, provincial statistics officer, said the fire destroyed their civil registration documents, census forms, computers and other office equipment. **Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Sangley find

CAVITE CITY—Authorities found hundreds of ammunition enough to arm 500 soldiers, and three military armored vehicles on Thursday in Barangay San Felipe, 900 meters away from Sangley Point. Commodore Amado Sanglay of the Philippine Navy, said Sangley Point could have been used by the mutineers for their assault against government troops during the July 27 coup try. The three armored vehicles were already in combat position, he added. Sanglay said hundreds of two-way radio units and six vehicles were also found during the ocular inspection in Barangay San Felipe. **Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

2 dead in floods

COTABATO CITY—The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Central Mindanao on Saturday said the floods in North Cotabato and a landslide in South Cotabato claimed the lives of at least two persons this week. OCD-12 Regional Director Minda Morante said Cordero Domingo of Barangay Grebona in Libungan, North Cotabato drowned when water rose in the village, while Ngato Panduma of Barangay Lamba in Banga, South Cotabato, died after a landslide that also destroyed at least 43 houses occurred there because of incessant rains. **Charlie Señaso, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Calamba bank heist

CALAMBA CITY—Police hunted down a group of heavily armed men who broke into a Bank of the Philippine Islands branch inside the Carmelray Techno Park in Barangay Canlubang on Friday and took with them an undetermined amount of money. Calamba police chief Senior Supt. Albert Garcia said some 11 unidentified men, armed with high-powered rifles, had disarmed a policeman with his service gun. The robbery lasted only five minutes, Garcia said. "They were not ordinary robbers. They were armed with M203 and M16 armalite rifles," Garcia stated. **Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Military HQ reinforced

From page A1

Such rumors could be the work of the same people who helped organize the mutiny by about 300 soldiers who took over the Oakwood apartment complex in Makati, Soliman said.

The mutineers backed down peacefully and are now being held in detention. The government said the mutiny was part of a larger coup plot aimed at toppling Ms. Macapagal and setting up a 15-member junta. Investigators are trying to track people who helped finance and organize the uprising.

On Friday, the military also had to deal with vicious "text" rumors, claiming troop movements in what was supposedly part of another rebellion in the offing.

The rumors prompted both police and the military to fortify checkpoints in key areas in anticipation of a possible charge by another band of renegade officers.

Contrary to rumors that there were about 100 members of the military's elite units waiting to strike, the soldiers who are missing are not armed, according to the military information officer.

Lucero said only about 30 soldiers nationwide were "unac-

counted for."

"These soldiers were missing for various reasons and some of these reasons were personal and family-related," Lucero told the INQUIRER.

"But it doesn't follow that they were supporters or were actually part of the group that staged the rebellion."

What really worried the public, Lucero said, was the band of renegade soldiers that assaulted the Ayala Center in Makati.

But these officers—all 343 of them—had been accounted for, he said.

The soldiers included Navy Lt.

Antonio Trillanes IV and four other leaders of the group. They are currently detained in Camp Aguinaldo.

The five junior military officers had been prevented by the military leadership from testifying before the House of Representatives and the Senate for security reasons.

In a statement obtained by Agence France Presse from the five through their lawyer, the junior officers maintained that they were not "rogue soldiers," who committed any crime, and that the brief uprising was a means to air their grievance.

They called on the government to allow them to testify in

Congress, warning that any attempt by authorities to cover up alleged corruption in the military would lead to public disapproval.

"Why can't we be allowed to speak before the committees of Congress? What is the government afraid of? Of course, the government is afraid of the truth. But only the truth can set us free," the statement said.

The rebel soldiers also dismissed as a "blatant lie" statements by the military that there were threats against their lives. "We are willing to risk it, just so the people will know the truth."

The President, in her statement

Saturday, assured the public that the government would "punish the plotters" although it would also look into the soldiers' accusations of corruption within the military.

Despite Manila's general appearance of business as usual, some said there were problems.

"Look, we have no clients," real estate agent Norma Cables said, pointing to the empty chairs at her upscale company at the popular Robinson's Place mall in Manila.

"I hope these coup rumors ... end," Cables said. "If these go on, we'll really have a problem." **Reports from AFP, AP and Christina Esguerra**

Ex-hobo finds life's meaning ...

From page A1

grimy and hair untamed a la Afro from days without a bath—when picked up by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in front of the Post Office building in Manila, recalled Helen Lontoc, one of his guardians at the DSWD.

While under DSWD custody, Sherwin confessed to committing petty theft as an angst-ridden teenager and later to becoming a drug addict. This largely explains, he said, why fewer and fewer of his own relatives would now welcome him in their homes.

Boy who cried wolf

"I was the boy who cried wolf. Nobody was there to listen to me," Sherwin said when the INQUIRER saw him recently.

Sherwin's character and life story stood out among the DSWD's tales of rescued vagrants that he was made one of the speakers during a recent program at the department.

"We live in a dark and cruel world where it seems that people are getting colder and colder to one another and it's an effort in futility to help others and do them good," he said during the anniversary celebration of DSWD's National Capital Region office in May.

"I was a man who had nothing ... I have been living on and off the streets for the last 13 years. I had my chances and I squandered them away," he said.

He also quoted an uncle as once admonishing him: "God himself had given you the chance to change and you still blew it!"

The INQUIRER saw Sherwin last Friday at the Jose Fabella Center (JFC) in Mandaluyong City, the DSWD's temporary shelter for vagrants, mentally impaired wanderers, and homeless families picked up from all over the metropolis.

The center, he claimed, was where he finally found the "appreciation" that he thought was lacking in his own personal circles.

Separated

Sherwin said he was born into an affluent clan in Bulacan. His parents separated when he was 3 years old. He has a younger brother, "but we never became that close."

With P30 in his pocket and riding on a skateboard, he made his first of many "escapes" at 13, when he was staying with his mother who was then living in Novaliches.

He spent most of the last 13 years in the streets than under the care of loved ones. Every time he left home, he said, he would spend many nights particularly in the Greenbelt area, though he sometimes also reached Quiapo and Rizal Park.

When he was not a vagrant, he spent his time with his paternal

CRUZ

grandmother in Parañaque City. Later, there were many attempts to have him rejoin either his mother or father, but he would end up leaving home again after a few months. His high school studies, as a result, were repeatedly interrupted.

As a young adult watching the world pass from the sidewalk, he said, he took odd jobs offered by friends he made in the streets.

Helper

One of those jobs brought him to Iloilo in the early '90s, where he saved some money as a stay-in helper in a bakery. He said he used the money to finish high school in that province.

He later found himself back in Manila and enrolled in a computer science course in Adamson University. By then, he was again receiving financial support from his grandmother in Parañaque.

But he never got past his freshman year in Adamson as he got hooked on drugs—which led him back to the streets.

At first, he took shelter in the homes of friends. But he soon took flight again "because I can't stand being a burden to anyone."

One drug-crazed night, he tried ending his life "by sleeping in the middle of Blumentritt (Street)" in Manila. Of course, he woke up the next morning, although his shoes were missing.

A black foreigner, who turned out to be a religious missionary, saw him roaming the North Cemetery and referred him to a drug rehabilitation center in Manila where Sherwin said he stayed for almost a year.

Later, that foreigner convinced him to train as a preacher with the former's "Born Again" Christian movement.

One day at the training school, Sherwin said, he again sneaked out

and never came back.

No phone call

Asked why he kept running away, Sherwin said: "I feel like I'm not being appreciated for whatever I've accomplished as there was not a single phone call from my family."

His last vivid memory before being "rescued" by the DSWD was that he had a drinking binge with friends in Caloocan City sometime in March. Drunk and wasted, he then took a jeepney to Manila and curled up on a spot at the Liwasang Bonifacio, where the DSWD found him.

At the Jose Fabella Center, Sherwin underwent what Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman called a "Character Building Workshop" aimed at enabling the participants to "rediscover their value."

Sherwin, like other JFC "clients," received a certificate which, Soliman said, "meant so much to them because it seems that for the first time they've been recognized for their worth."

Sherwin stayed at the JFC for a few weeks. He was reclusive the first few days but eventually found a true confidante in Lontoc.

With Sherwin initiating the interaction, the two ended up writing letters to one another. Sherwin gradually purged his inner demons by recalling his tormented past. Lontoc completed the therapy by being an "active listener."

"There is no doubt you are a survivor," Lontoc told him in one of her notes. "I believe God carried you through your darkest moments because you have yet to fulfill your missions in life."

Surge of hope

Sherwin replied: "Your letter ... gave me a surge of hope."

Today, Sherwin is officially no longer a JFC ward because the DSWD, as a policy, has "returned" him to the care of another grandmother of his in Marikina. Also, his studies at St. Joseph's College, where he's taking B.S. Social Work, are financed not by the DSWD but by an aunt.

But Sherwin said he still made it a point to be at JFC at least twice a week after his classes, so that he can assist social workers in attending to the center's current clients.

"He helps us give the bedridden and elderly a bath. Because he's quite tall, he can also impose order and discipline among our clients whenever we have group activities," Lontoc said. "He also helps us around at the office since he's computer literate."

"I am what I am right now because of this place," Sherwin said. "Here is where I realized that if the blind, the cripple, or the poor can move on, *ako pa kaya?* Here I can say that for the first time someone had faith in me."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 4, 2003
18th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Num 11:4-15
Gospel: Mt 14:13-21

On hearing the death of John the Baptist, Jesus set out secretly by boat for a secluded place. But the people heard of it, and they followed him on foot from their towns. When Jesus went ashore, he saw the crowd gathered there and he had compassion on them. And he healed their sick.

Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said, "We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat."

But Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat." They answered, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes." Jesus said to them, "Bring them here to me."

Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.

Commentary

"He took pity on them and healed their sick." One of the truly wonderful things about Jesus is his great awareness of the situation, the plight of those around him. Nothing it seems, ever escapes his notice when it comes to the needs of others. In today's gospel reading, he goes as far as to feed a great number of them. Jesus, the noblest human being who ever lived, shows us the way to greatness and nobility. Compassion and concern for others are virtues so seemingly scarce in today's world where most of the time, profit and gain, even at the expense of others, especially the little ones, appears to be the mark of great individuals. The Christian must stand as a sign of contradiction in such a world. He must stand up for the principles that Jesus his Master stood for, and these principles can all be summed up in one simple word: "thoughtfulness."

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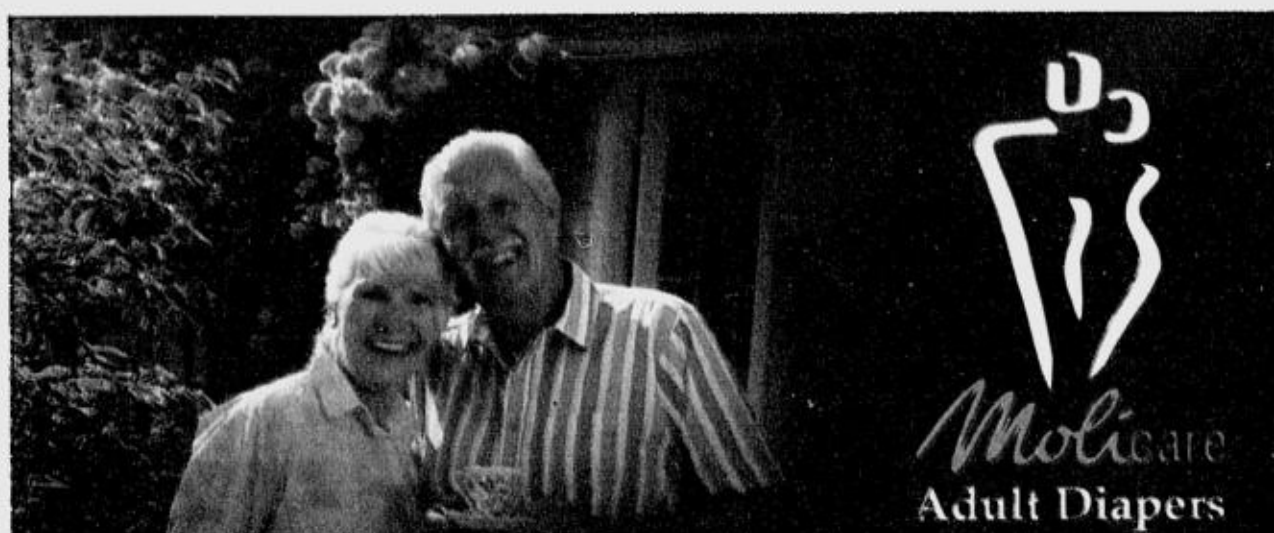
REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Eyewitness identification—In *People v. Teehankee Jr.*, the Court explained that "while eyewitness identification is significant, it is not as accurate and authoritative as the scientific forms of identification evidence such as the fingerprint or the DNA test result. Some authors even describe eyewitness evidence as 'inherently suspect.'"

Known causes of misidentification have been identified as follows: "Identification testimony has at least three components. First, witnessing a crime, whether as a victim or a bystander, involves perception of an event actually occurring. Second, the witness must memorize details of the event. Third, the witness must be able to recall and communicate accurately. Dangers of unreliability in eyewitness testimony arise at each of these three stages, for whenever people attempt to acquire, retain, and retrieve information accurately, they are limited by normal human fallibilities and suggestive influences." When all of the above factors are taken into consideration, the probability that Pedro erred in identifying appellant as one of the perpetrators of the crimes becomes clearer. [Citations omitted.]

Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Limpangco, G.R. No. 141438-40, February 3, 2003

By R. B. Vera

EU shoots down MBC contention



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From page A1

ests of some of its segments.

Under pressure

The government has come under pressure from the business community to lift the state of rebellion. The MBC's unhappiness was amplified by its executive director, Bill Luz, who said the state of rebellion had left the impression that there was still fighting in the streets—which is an exaggeration.

Donald Dee, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said the state of rebellion sent a message to foreign businessmen that the coup was far from contained.

Dee's statement does not reflect the point of view of foreign investors.

The statement of the EU presidency—it is Italy's turn to chair the union—contradicted the concerns of the MBC. The European Union is one of the country's main sources of investment, and its reaction is clear enough and does not need further interpretation from the MBC. The European Union is hard-nosed enough to know that its economic interests lie in a strong exercise of executive powers.

Strong state

The European Union appears to share the view that a strong state is needed to face down armed challenges to its authority and that a government under threat has the absolute right to use its emergency powers to defend itself—with the state of emergency being a measure of self-defense.

Dee shifted the issue by suggesting that the government was not doing enough to end the threats, saying it should address the rebel group's grievances that provoked the mutiny.

But Dee is wrong to say this. Facts, if he has any respect for facts, show that as early as July 13, the President had met some of the junior officers, heard their grievances, and explained measures intended to address them.

The MBC, the business community as a whole, has different priorities from those of the government. The President has argued that the declaration is needed to eradicate the remaining networks of rebellion. She declared the state of rebellion as a measure that will allow the government to make warrantless arrests.

Luz said businessmen could not understand what advantages the government could gain by maintaining the state of rebellion, when it could arrest and prosecute those responsible for mutiny without such a declaration.

But he cannot understand the matter because he is misinformed about the importance of the declaration in freeing the government's hand to use its emergency powers.

Businessmen sheltered in their comfortable executive suites and board rooms—watching economic indicators that could reduce their profits—are the least qualified to determine, in a time of emergency, whether the government is in danger of falling because of what is clearly the beginning of a power grab.

DOH tries to cure ...

From page A1

homosexuals availing themselves of government health services.

Zenaida Dy-Recidoro, a supervisor at the DOH health promotions office, said the health department wanted to teach its workers the appropriate language and treatment to be used when dealing with gays, lesbians, transgender and bisexuals.

The DOH-Davao office, for instance, is now using forms that seek information on the "partner" of the one getting treatment instead of the "husband" or "wife."

Recidoro said he got the information from a health worker in Davao City, who said that the DOH-Davao office had changed the "husband or wife" tag in the forms so as not to embarrass those with partners who do not fall into the conventional category.

"The DOH admits that it has been gender-blind. Our orientation is just the sex and disease of the patient ... [but] we also have to look into the needs of sexual minorities," Recidoro said in an interview during a forum on the needs of sexual minorities.

For the first time, the department held on Friday a forum on the impact of discrimination on the health status of sexual minorities in the country.

Business leaders try to find ...

From page A1

mulo had said, "If she thinks we're happy with just a quick resolution, she's wrong."

At the MOPC forum, Ms Macapagal could not hide her displeasure over Romulo's remarks. "What can you expect from the lawyer of Piatco?" she asked.

Romulo is the lawyer for Philippine International Air Terminals Co., which built Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport that the government is taking over.

Ms Macapagal said she was disappointed

ning of a power grab.

Government duty

The MBC is giving the government sermons about addressing the soldiers' grievances rather than defending itself from armed military attack.

In a coup attempt, the urgent responsibility of the government is to defend itself and crush the rebellion.

When the government comes under armed attack by soldiers who are sworn to defend the state and the Constitution, its first concern is to crush the rising.

It is the height of stupidity for the head of state not to use the reserve powers of the state—including declaring a state of rebellion—to save itself.

Addressing grievances through an orderly process comes next, but only after the rebellion has been quashed.

The law of survival applies to both individuals and to the state. If one is attacked, if one's life is threatened, one does not ask his attacker, Why are you mad at me? One hits back, with all weapons at hand.

The state is neither defenseless nor the punching bag of disgruntled groups. A government that cannot defend the state and, its hold on power does not deserve the respect and confidence of its citizens and business constituency (including the MBC), as well of the foreign investment community.

This is why the European Union welcomed the decisive response of the government to the mutiny, including the declaration of the state of rebellion.

A weak government that cannot use its emergency powers to defend itself invites further rebellions that will shake the stability of the business environment.

More plots

The continuation of the state of rebellion, albeit not indefinitely, is justified by the subsequent discovery by government intelligence of plots indicating the involvement of politicians in a coup conspiracy.

Government intelligence agencies say the plots include setting up a 15-man military junta, which means that the mutiny was not just about calling attention to grievances and carried treasonous intentions and grave political implications for Philippine democracy.

The danger posed by any failure to exercise emergency powers is further emphasized by the fact that Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the incurable and failed coup plotter since the 1980s, has taken a low profile after the government implicated him.

The best judge of determining when the danger to the state has abated and when to lift the state of rebellion is the government under threat—not businessmen.

A strong government, which is able to use its weapons and most of all its emergency powers, to defend itself and democracy, is the best guarantee for the business community to make money in a stable political and economic environment.

The MBC as a pressure group had better think carefully whether its interests are better served by a democratic government that refuses to be bullied, or by a junta of military adventurers posturing as saviors of the nation.

The event was hailed by the ProGay Movement, Cannot Live in the Closet Inc., an organization of lesbians in the country, and several women's groups, which were represented in the forum.

While homosexuals do not have "special" physical needs that demand a different treatment, the DOH is very sensitive about how they are seen and treated by its health workers, according to Recidoro.

"Gays want to be handled gently, with care, because they want to feel like women," she said, adding that both gays and lesbians prefer to be treated by female health workers.

Health workers should also be more aware of the sexual practices of and the gadgets used by homosexuals because these may be the cause of some infections, which some doctors easily dismiss as sexually transmitted diseases, Recidoro said.

Some lesbians use a penis-like gadget that is attached to their vulva and is used for peeing. This allows them to use toilets for men but can cause infections when not regularly cleaned, according to Recidoro.

The DOH does not have statistics on the number of lesbians, gays, transgender and bisexuals in the country, which is set to host the world conference of lesbians and gays last November.

that the country's business organizations did not come out with a more emphatic expression of their support for her administration.

Another major irritant was business leaders' criticism of the President's decision to indefinitely extend the state of rebellion, which businessmen warned could be a more lethal blow to the economy.

Both Malacañang and the business groups have since refused to make any further comments on the issue. Romulo has also declined to issue any statement. But people close to him said he was unruffled by the President's remarks.

Group links Honasan to failed Makati mutiny

From page A1

manifesto affirming the group's loyalty to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Constitution.

In Cebu City, NGI's Alcover said his group was told that a military takeover was in the offing and that a junta would be created, with a representative from the Guardians.

But he said Honasan's emissaries did not personally talk to him because they knew he would oppose the move.

Alcover said his group was already coordinating with the government investigation. He said his members who were personally approached by Honasan's group had already executed affidavits. The documents are now in the hands of government investi-

gators, he added.

Alcover said he used to be Honasan's vice chair in the PGBI but distanced himself from him after realizing that the senator was using the Guardians to further his political career.

But Makahiya said Alcover had actually been expelled from the PGBI because he was soliciting money from politicians. Alcover and other faction leaders were "mercenary Guardians," he said.

Harassment

Makahiya condemned government officials for allegedly questioning and harassing PGBI members, especially those who are on active duty.

"We have received complaints from our brothers that they were being questioned by their superi-



HONASAN

ors and that they are being watched by some agents" of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

"Obviously, they are trying to harass our officers and members

to implicate PGBI and Senator Honasan with the Magdalo group," Makahiya argued.

He said agents of the Intelligence Service of the AFP and the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group were closely watching their brothers after rumors spread last week implicating them in another coup plot.

He said he was worried that government agents might fabricate evidence linking their members to a destabilization plot.

Makahiya also hit Interior Secretary Jose Lina's insinuation that his group was the civilian component of the aborted rebellion in Makati last week.

"Lina is fishing for something against Senator Honasan and the PGBI. He is jumping to conclusions without presenting first the

evidence," Makahiya lamented.

He said the PGBI and other groups belonging to the newly formed Kilusan para sa Makatarungang Lipunan at Gobyerno were supposed to stage their own version of the State of the Nation Address (Sona) in front of the Edsa Shrine.

But the event in Makati changed the plan, he said.

"We were there to take part in the pre-planned activity of the KMLG to conduct a people's counter-Sona in Edsa. It was legitimate expression of our grievances, an exercise of our freedom of expression," Makahiya said.

He explained that when they heard of the incident in Makati, they decided to hold a people's prayer rally for peace in front of the Ninoy Aquino monument on Ayala Avenue.

But as they neared the monument, "our brother Guardians in the PNP asked us to move from Makati Avenue to the Rufino Towers to avoid any untoward incident," Makahiya said.

"We readily agreed to march backward. When some brothers informed us that the President would declare a state of rebellion, we urgently decided to disperse in order to safeguard our members," he maintained.

Pampanga

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said leaders and members of the Guardians chapter in the province continued to be under watch.

The chapter is called the "Apo Guerrero Guardians Brotherhood," based on "Leon Guerrero," a screen character played by Gov. Manuel Lapid, the chapter's honorary chair. Police said the chapter had 3,000 members in Pam-

panga alone.

Mendoza said he had asked Lapid to discourage the local Guardians from staging protest rallies against the Macapagal administration and in support of Honasan.

Alcover said the effort of Honasan's group to convince other Guardians factions to join the coup attempt started five months ago, conveyed through personal meetings or text messages.

He said Honasan's group did not mention the date of the military takeover, but he said that was a logical precaution.

Alcover also asked the public not to jump to the conclusion that the entire community of Guardians had given their support to Honasan. But he also said the senator could not have been the mastermind since he did not have the funds.

"Gringo [Honasan] has no money. Gringo could not finance this kind of operation," he said.

The Guardians International manifesto, released by Malacañang and signed by one Leborio "Abraham" Jangao Jr., said the group "does not support any acts that will destabilize or undermine the duly constituted authorities."

But the manifesto was conspicuous in its lack of signatures of some of its most prominent members, including Nestorio Gualberto (international chair and chief executive of the central executive council), Eduardo Matillano, Ruben Cabagnot, Rodolfo Caisip, Marcial Collao, Alberto Braganza, and Enrique Atanacio.

Makahiya also told the INQUIRER that the Guardians International faction was formed only in May, with Gualberto as figurehead.

With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr.; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Which Guardians? Brotherhood has 49 factions

By Edra L. Benedicto
Chief, PDI Visayas Bureau
and Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAY the word "Guardian" and many people think of a shadowy brotherhood of soldiers and policemen identified with erstwhile rebel soldier, now senator, Gregorio Honasan.

To many "brothers," however, this is far from the truth.

To date, there are at least nine major Guardians factions and 40 smaller ones. The group headed by Honasan, the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI), is just one of them.

Pastor Alcover Jr., the president of another faction hostile to Honasan, the New Guardians Inc. (NGI), traced the roots of the brotherhood.

It began in Iligan City in 1975, as the "Diablo Squad Crime Buster" group.

Founded by a Philippine Constabulary major, Liburio Jangao, Diablo was meant to foster camaraderie among the members of PC-Integrated National Police (PC-INP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At that time, Alcover recalled, the PC-INP and AFP would often end up in "mis-encounters," particularly in Mindanao, because they did not recognize each other.

Creating the Diablo solved the problem, he said. Each member was required to sport tattoos on his hands (between the thumb and the pointer) as identification marks.

The right hand carried the letter representing the service unit the member belonged to (for example, "N" for Navy, "M" for Marines, "A" for Army or "G" for police) while the left hand carried the markings for both the service unit and area of assignment (for example, "AM" for Army in Mindanao).

The Diablos were also staunch anti-communists.

In the early 1980s, some Diablos sympathized with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), the group of young mili-

tary officers led by Honasan.

After Ferdinand Marcos fled and Corazon Aquino became president, Major Jangao and other leaders converted the group into the Guardians Brotherhood Inc. and declared support for Aquino.

Honasan was part of the new group, and the Guardians began accepting civilian members into the organization.

Sometime in 1987, Honasan formed his own group called the Guardians Center Foundation Inc. (GCFI).

It was from the ranks of the GCFI, Alcover said, that Honasan drew support for the several coup attempts that he led against Aquino.

More factions

Between 1987 and 1997, the Guardians grew into nine factions and 40 smaller groups. On March 19, 1997, after the leaders of the major factions called a national convention to reintegrate themselves into one group, the PGBI was born.

By that time, Alcover said, there were about 3 million members in all. Honasan, a senator by that time, was elected chair and president, while Alcover was named national vice chair representing the Visayas.

Last year, however, Honasan and several leaders of Guardians, Alcover included, had a falling out. PGBI spokesperson Ernie Makahiya told the INQUIRER that Alcover and other "unprincipled Guardians" were expelled in January for offering politicians their services in exchange for money.

Alcover said the dispute involved Honasan's alleged use of the brotherhood to further his political career. In particular, he said they strongly protested Honasan's friendly relations with left-leaning groups like Bayan Muna.

Alcover said his group left the PGBI in April 2002 to form the NGI. The group's mass base is the National Alliance for Democracy

(NAD), the anti-communist fraternity Alcover founded.

The NGI has about 25,000 members with 15 chapters nationwide, Alcover said. He said Honasan's faction had only about 6,000 members.

But Makahiya said his group still had about 600,000 members, and emphasized that it was only the PGBI that was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to Makahiya, PGBI members have the following letters tattooed on both hands: GL, if the members are from Luzon; GV, if from the Visayas; and GM, if from Mindanao.

They also have a triangle tattoo on their left arm, he said.

Other factions include the GCFI, headed by Subic Customs Commissioner Billy Bibit; Guardians Philippines Inc., Guardians Brotherhood Inc., PGBI reformists headed by Col. Leborio Hangao, and Guardians International led by police general Nestorio Gualberto.

Plan to transfer mutineer worries rebel soldiers

From page A1

Forces' Intelligence Service Group in Makati City, said lawyer Argee Guevarra.

He said he received the information from Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV, one of the five leaders of Sunday's failed mutiny who are detained at Camp Aguinaldo, when he visited them yesterday.

Trillanes' group, he claimed, feared for Mabulo's "safety and security" if the officer were "isolated" at Fort Bonifacio.

"They are wondering why Mabulo would have to be segregated from the rest," Guevarra told the INQUIRER.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, officer in charge of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other officials were yesterday tight-lipped on the supposed transfer.

Guevarra said Trillanes learned about the supposed plan to transfer Mabulo on Saturday. Trillanes and other Magdalo leaders believe that the plan could have been a result of a letter that Mabulo wrote while under detention, the lawyer said.

The strongly worded letter, which called on the people to join the Magdalo's "crusade against corruption," was dated July 29, the same day that he and Trillanes' group were placed under "incommunicado detention" at the Isafp headquarters, according to Guevarra.

The lawyer refused to say how he got hold of the letter.

"We have done our part," Mabulo supposedly wrote. "We have planted the seeds of idealism and awareness in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people."

The officer answered speculations that he and other renegade soldiers had been agitated by some politicians into launching the rebellion.

"You might be asking who [were] the unseen hands that agitated the group," Mabulo allegedly wrote. "We have been subjected to continuous agitation by our leaders. We are agitated by their corrupt practices."

The "agitation," he purportedly claimed, came from big businessmen who evade pay-

ing taxes, corrupt officials of the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and police officers who allegedly allowed three of the country's most dangerous and important detainees to escape on July 14.

Mabulo, according to Guevarra, went on blaming "media institutions whose bias favors the highest bidder ... and local government units who fail to do their part in addressing the root causes of insurgency."

As of press time last night, Mabulo was still at Camp Aguinaldo, the lawyer said.

Bunye

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said Trillanes and his cohorts should stop whining about their detention.

"They said they were willing to die for their cause. Eh, ito hindi pa naman sila namamatay, ah? [They're still alive] We are just transferring them to another cell and they make it sound like we're punishing them too harshly," Bunye said in an interview with RMN radio.

"We have not violated any of their human rights because while we have changed their holding area, we have not kept them incommunicado—their families and lawyers can still visit them," he said.

Bunye said that the young officers' commitment to face the consequences of their actions was one of the five points that the Magdalo group agreed on with the government's chief negotiator, Ambassador Frank Cimatu.

The government also agreed to bring back the soldiers to their barracks [from Makati to Fort Bonifacio] for processing, return them to their commanders in their divisions, all participants to be tried under the Articles of War, and all their complaints to be endorsed to the President and monitored closely.

Bunye said the government had complied with the spirit of the agreement.

By agreeing to face the consequences of their action, Bunye said the mutiny leaders should not question where the government would put them if this was deemed to be in the best interest of moving forward with the investigation.

With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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U.P. ARBORETUM A forest fights for its trees

By Amy R. Remo

THE BATTLE for the Arboretum—the last remaining rain forest in Metro Manila—has been declared won against illegal dwellers.

But look again.

As it is, the problem regarding 2,000 illegal settlers evicted last month was just the tip of the iceberg. For as one moves deeper into the Arboretum, one is confronted by a much bigger "squatting" problem.

The problem includes 500 families scattered all over the 83-hectare area, garbage dumps, junkyards, a bustling subdivision, diggings left behind by treasure hunters and theft of rare plants.

Then there are the effects of this invasion, primarily the destruction of nine of the 13 hectares of once pristine forest, then the home of 5,790 trees of various species and age.

Settlers began coming in 1985 when portions of the forest had to be cleared of trees and other plants to make way for houses and roads.

According to one of the Arboretum's caretakers, these comprised the families of 10 University of the Philippines employees who were permitted to build their homes in the forest.

Five of the settlers were among the 11 caretakers of the Arboretum.

In 1976, when the caretaker started working in the Arboretum, the forest was thick with trees and humus, the fertile layer of ground composed of dried leaves, branches and other decomposing matter.

Over the years, the employees' children, relatives and friends also started moving in and making clearings for homes. They were soon joined by squatters seeking a place to stay in Metro Manila.

Communities

Communities soon grew within the forest, along with carinderias, sari-sari stores, basketball courts, a chapel, a pig farm and junkyards.

Pink tricycles now sputter through narrow paths ferrying residents and visitors in and out of the forest communities.

One of the creeks which drained the forest of excess rainfall and moisture has been blocked with stones and garbage. Now dead, the creek poses a threat to residents because it overflows every time it rains.

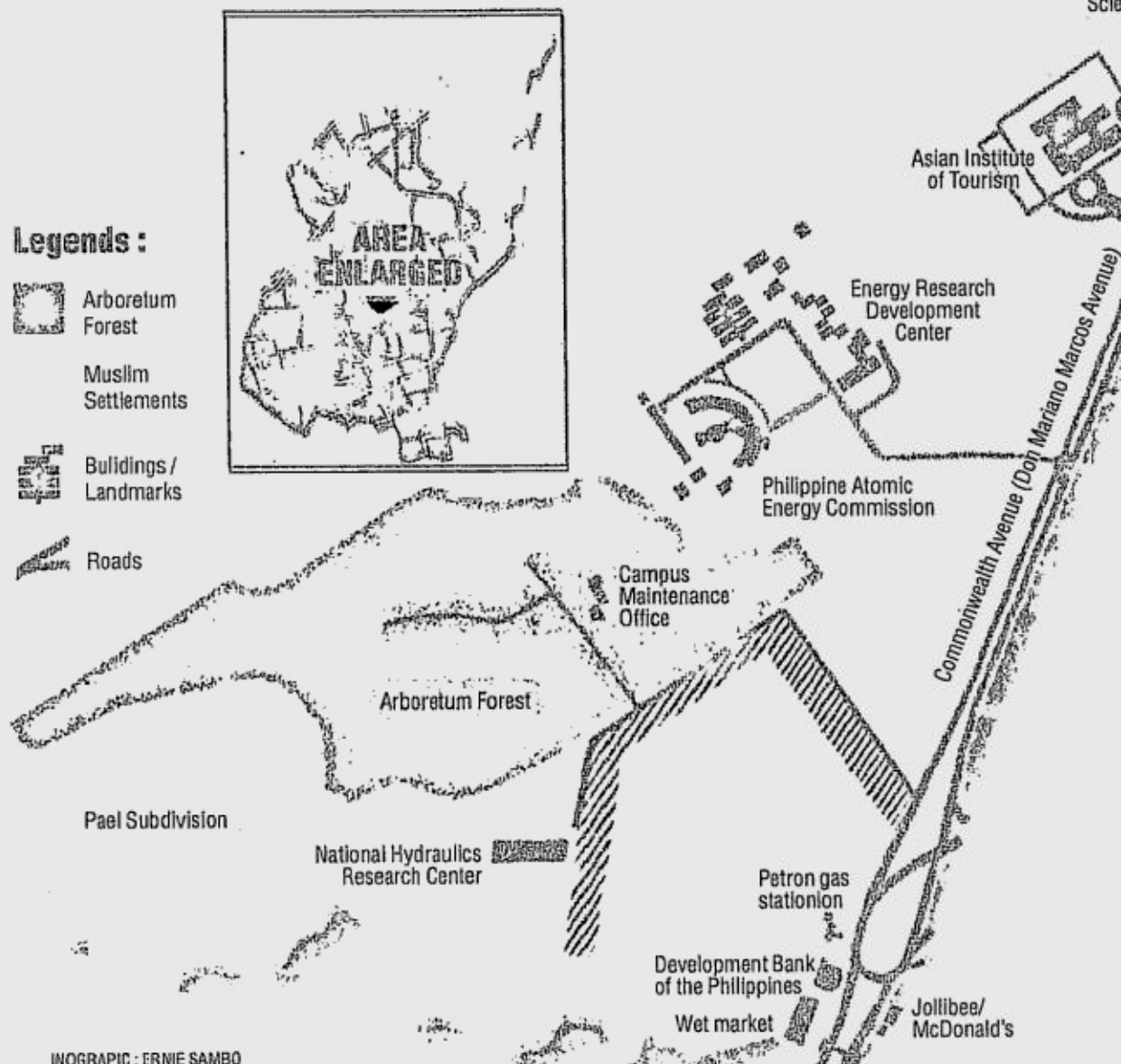
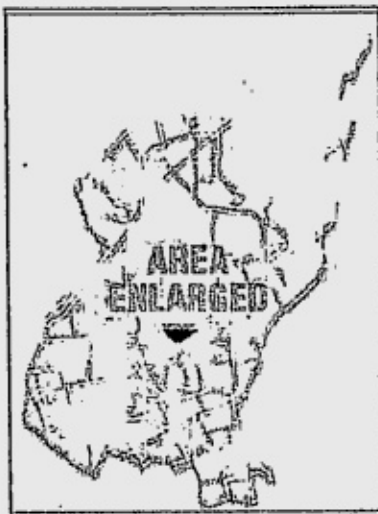
A garbage dump which began as a repository for dried leaves and dead trees is now the final resting place of much of UP's solid waste after the university used it as a temporary landfill.

It continues to be the dumping ground of plastic, styrofoam and other garbage from the forest communities.

Scavengers, mostly children, troop to the dump for anything recyclable that could be reused or sold to one of the several junkyards that have set up shop

Legends :

-  Arboretum Forest
-  Muslim Settlements
-  Buildings / Landmarks
-  Roads



INOGRAPHIC : ERNIE SAMBO

THE AUTHOR and the caretaker (encircled) are dwarfed by what remains of the original forest.



THE PAST meets the present on a narrow dirt road.

amid trees, shrubs and saplings.

In the mid-80s, a subdivision called Pael State was built on 10 hectares of Arboretum land. The subdivision belonged to the children of Antonio Pael, one of those claiming ownership of the Arboretum.

Pael's claim to the Arboretum has however been junked by the Supreme Court, which declared his title to the land as "spurious" in a promulgation on Dec. 12, 1990.

And as if squatting and pollution were not enough, treasure hunters have come and gone leaving behind diggings, which end up as trash pits of residents.

Also, saplings of rare trees and plants have been taken from the Arboretum forest and sold outside.

Centerpiece

The Arboretum is a huge inverted triangle in Diliman, bounded by Commonwealth Avenue in the southeast, the Culiat River in the southwest and by Barangays Vasra and New Era in the north.

It was established in 1948 by the Department of Agriculture as a nursery for its reforestation activities. The forest, which took up 13 of the 83 hectares of the Arboretum, was its centerpiece.

Back then, it was home to 5,790 exotic and endangered trees and plant

species that included fruit trees, acacias, ear pods, sugar palms and hard wood, including the molave and the narra.

When the administration of the Arboretum was transferred to UP in 1962, the Arboretum forest sanctuary became an important training ground for UP students, especially those who took up Biology, Botany and Engineering. Its educational, scientific and aesthetic significance to the community could not be stressed enough.

The coming of the settlers and squatters however spoiled the Arboretum which largely became unfit for study. To date, only four of the 13 hectares of forest can be used for scientific and educational purposes.

Many have criticized the past and present UP administrations for their "neglect" of the Arboretum forest. Such criticisms are flatly denied by current UP president Francisco Nemenzo.

"We have faithfully maintained the forest the best that we can since 1962," stressed Nemenzo.

He said there were simply not enough funds and university security personnel to ward off squatters.

"UP is a very huge area and it wouldn't be fair to simply focus on one

area such as the Arboretum," Nemenzo said. "But that doesn't mean we're not taking care of it."

Emilio Sotalbo, chief of UP Landscaping Office, said they regularly conducted tree maintenance activities such as fertilizing, watering and planting new trees.

With the help of students, they have also been able to maintain the Arboretum's several plant nurseries, Sotalbo added.

He admitted that maintaining the forest became difficult when the squatters came because these stopped them from tending the trees.

Monitor

Nonetheless, caretakers still monitor what remains of the Arboretum's forest.

As for the garbage problem, Nemenzo said they already stopped dumping at the Arboretum after the UP was allowed to dump at Payatas starting this year. "Clean-up projects were also being implemented," he added.

"Most of the garbage comes from the squatters. That's why our priority is to evict the squatters and then clean up the area," said Nemenzo.

The university president noted that people might have mistaken as abandonment his disapproval of the develop-

ment plans for the Arboretum.

There had been proposals to develop the Arboretum into a science and technology park where people could visit freely and have picnics. Nemenzo strongly opposed the plan.

Nemenzo said, they did not have the budget for such a project. And most importantly, he said they wanted to maintain the natural environment of the Arboretum.

"The presence of people could upset this delicate balance and we don't want to risk that," Nemenzo explained, adding that their priority was the overall restoration of the entire Arboretum.

"We are addressing the issues one at a time, starting with the eviction of squatters," said university head.

A police detachment had already been deployed in the area to prevent further squatting and to protect the forest.

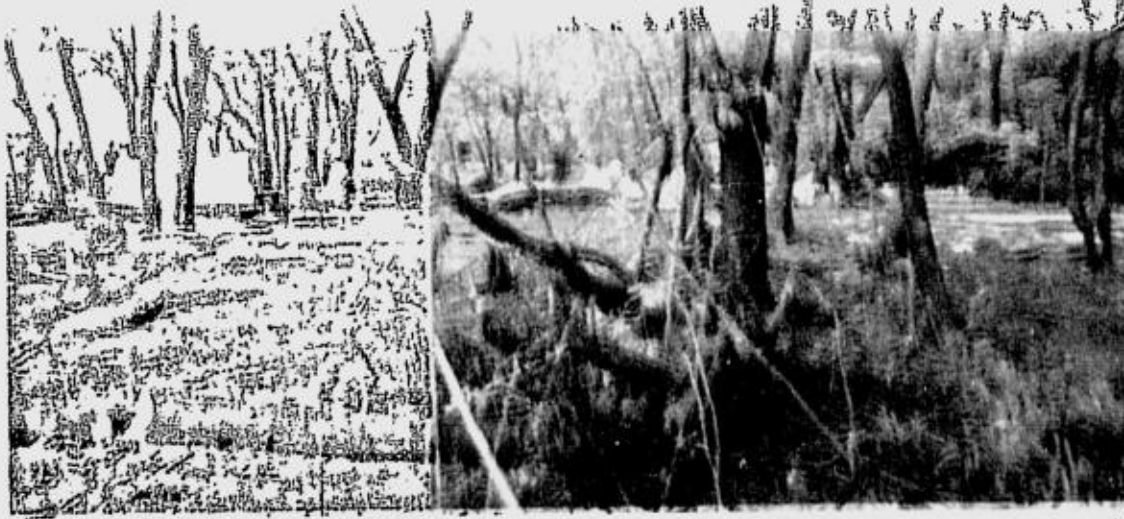
UP is also mulling over the restoration of the National Hydraulics Research Center, which is inside the Arboretum.

Also, they have already deployed more personnel to restore the forest.

"Give us time and we can show people that we can restore the Arboretum as it once had been. It will again live up to its name of being the last natural rain forest in Metro Manila," Nemenzo stressed.



HOUSES sprout where trees used to be planted.



THE CUTTING of more trees give way to squatters.

PHOTOS BY JOAN RAYON

METROBRIEFS**Warning vs rapist**

POLICE in Makati have issued a warning yesterday against a man who attacks women usually in the early morning hours. This developed after a service crew of Jollibee filed a complaint yesterday against a man who surprised her while she was on her way home early Saturday at the Estrella overpass. Armed with a pair of scissors, she said the suspect tried to rape her and threatened to kill her just like what she did to his other victims. But the woman managed to free herself and shout for help, but her attacker had already fled. **Alcun Papa**

Fatal stare

STARING can sometimes be fatal. This was the fate of Palad Balagtas, 49, of 13 Silanganan St., Maypajo, Caloocan. He died the other day after he was allegedly stabbed by his drinking buddy for staring at the latter's girlfriend. SPO2 Steve Casimiro said Aquino Manibo, of Tondo, Manila, had admitted stabbing Balagtas three times while they were drinking in Victor Lopez Compound in Tondo. But the confession has not been put on paper. Witness Alfonso Borja Jr. said Manibo was apparently irked by the way Balagtas looked at his girlfriend who happened to pass by the compound. **Tarra Quismundo**

Cop in road mishap

AN ELDERLY man died the other day after being run over by a vehicle driven by a police officer in Taguig. Investigation showed that SPO2 Anacleto Valdez, 52, of Lower Bicutan, Taguig, was driving his owner-type jeep (UNG-183) along a downhill stretch of Gen. Santos Avenue when he lost his brakes. Unfortunately, Arsenio Maglipon, 56, of Better Living Subdivision, Paranaque City, was crossing at the time and was hit. Valdez brought Maglipon to a hospital, where the victim died, before turning himself in to the police. **Alcun Papa**

3 mayors...

From page A24

some businessmen, the state of rebellion amid rumors of a second coup attempt would actually be favorable to the economy.

Some business leaders warned on Friday that allowing the state of rebellion to continue would discourage investments. This came after President Macapagal-Arroyo said that she would not lift the state of rebellion until all the instigators, financiers and supporters of last week's failed coup had been arrested.

"Under the state of rebellion, other officers who could be planning another coup attempt would be discouraged," Malonzo added.

He said that it would be more chilling to see the government lax after a coup attempt and amid alleged new threats of another try.

Malabon City mayor Amado Vicencio told the INQUIRER that while the businessmen's fears were valid, the government needed the state of rebellion to focus on its investigation on what really transpired on July 27.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco told the INQUIRER yesterday that "the President is in the best position to know what is good for the country."

He said Ms. Macapagal's decision depended on the information she had and that only she could determine up to when the state of rebellion would be needed.

Malonzo said that it was natural for the opposition to renounce the prolonged state of rebellion. "They know that under the state of rebellion, their moves would be limited," he said in Filipino.

Laarni still owns condo...

From page A24

Another house was raided in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, and it was owned by a former official of the Estrada government.

A third house in San Juan was being used by Estrada son Jinggoy.

Meanwhile, City Engineer Conrad Anciado said the sale of the property to Magpoc was highly suspicious.

For instance, Anciado said, the person who facilitated the sale and transfer of the property was not Enriquez as the practice goes but the JELP's engineer.

Anciado also noted that a person who identified herself as Magpoc went to his office and did not look credible or capable of buying a multi-million-peso house.

He noted further that during the time of the sale, Estrada and his mistresses were already under investigation for alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Food 'to go' with peso slide

Study suggests basic commodities first affected

By Tina Santos

BASIC necessities are among the first things a housewife scripps on as the prices of goods and services rise.

This is among the findings of a study by the Center for Women's Resources which looked into the spending practices of housewives amid the continuing drop in the peso's purchasing power.

CWR, a research and training institute for women, revealed in its paper "Ulat Lila," that housewives cut their budget for basic commodities like

food to pay for commodities like fuel, light and water.

"Housewives, who primarily hold the purse, could do nothing but pay a commodity with a fixed price like light or water," said CWR executive director Gert Ranjo-Libang. She explained that to make ends meet, they adjust the budget on commodities that are not fixed like that of food.

She noted that the peso's value had declined by an average of 3 percent during the past three years.

The study reveals that prices of commodities have in-

creased by 50 percent from prices 10 years ago.

According to the study, inflation has driven housewives to look for other means to augment the family income.

"Some resort to subcontracting of cell cards, packaging or rag making. Others choose to do laundry or housekeeping," said Libang.

Also, she added, there are those who sell food and other items on the sidewalks despite the risk of getting the ire of Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando.

According to her, most of the housewives they interviewed for the study lamented that the Filipino family's quality of life had continually deteriorated through the years along with the slide in the peso's buying power.

Libang said the housewives were pessimistic of the government's promise to improve their condition.

"They (housewives) have been waiting for the government's promise of change for three years now and they said they could no longer wait for another three years," she said.

**Sonny raises 'dead' issue**

A TOTAL of 56 funeral parlors have crossed the deadline set by the Quezon City government for them to revive their expired permits.

Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. has vowed to bury illegal funeral parlors which have refused to get a permit despite a

grace period that ended July 31.

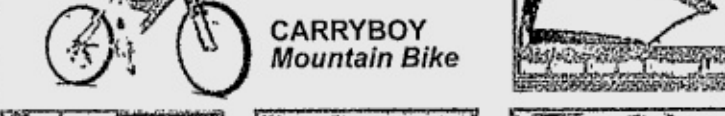
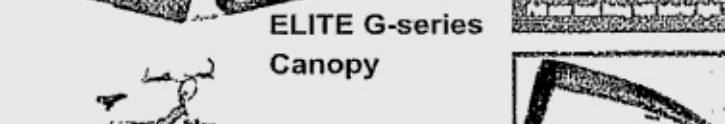
Manuel Sabalza, head of the department of public order and safety, already deployed teams to cemeteries in the city to monitor illegal interments.

Quezon City will also evict squatters living among the dead in the cemeteries. **Tina Santos**

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

5 members of family die in accident

FIVE members of a family from Pampanga were killed after a Philippine Rabbit bus hit the rear of their van along the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) in Barangay Nabuwag, Plaridel, Bulacan, yesterday morning.

A report from the NLEX security office identified the fatalities as twins Christine and Katrina, 12; Joseph Reniel, 14; Aurea Lorraine, 21, and their mother Loreta, 42, all surnamed Yabut. They were from Apalit, Pampanga.

Except for Joseph Reniel, the four died while being taken to the Bulacan Polymedic Hospital in Guiguinto town. The boy died in the hospital at 11:35 a.m.

Renato, 46, the victims' father and husband, and Africa Yabut, 72, Renato's mother, survived and were taken to the hospital.

According to the report, the bus driven by Leo Caballes of Tarlac City hit the rear of the Yabuts' white Mitsubishi Adventure van. Both vehicles, bound for Metro Manila, swerved to the right when a car in front of the van slowed down. The bus hit the van, which then tumbled upon impact and hit a tree.

Police said Caballes escaped. He reportedly crossed the expressway's middle island and boarded a northbound bus. Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



BACK TO KIDS

A girl basks in the sun on top of carved stone statues of deer at the Ayala Park in Makati City. Last week, the area was the scene of a failed power grab by rebel officers and soldiers.

ERIK ARAZAS

STATE OF REBELLION

3 mayors support GMA

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE BUSINESS sector may believe otherwise, but a few Metro Manila mayors think the indefinite continuance of the state of rebellion has favorable effects to the country.

"Continuing the state of rebellion would assure businessmen that the government could handle the situation well," Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said that contrary to claims by

3 MAYORS/A23

Laarni still owns condo, says 'buyer'

By Nelson Forte Flores

LIEZEL Magpoc, the alleged buyer of Laarni Enriquez's condominium in Mandaluyong City, said "the sale was for convenience" and that no real change in ownership was involved.

Magpoc, a resident of Old Balar in Quezon City, in a sworn statement submitted to the Mandaluyong police, described herself as a "close friend of Enriquez," a mistress of ousted president Joseph Estrada.

Her statement said that "[s]ometime in March 2001, Ms. Laarni Enriquez... executed in my favor a deed of absolute sale over a property located at 461 J. B. Vargas St., Barangay Bagong Silang, Mandaluyong City."

Magpoc, however, stressed that "the sale was merely for convenience and was not in any way intended to transfer beneficial ownership over the property to me."

She added that "despite the execution of the deed of sale, I did not exercise any act of ownership over the property. Neither did I ever come into possession nor control of the property at any time."

The woman executed the statement amid the investigation on the reported use of the condominium unit by mutinous soldiers who participated in the takeover of Oakwood Premier apartments at the Ayala Center in Makati City.

Magpoc claimed that "I do not personally know anyone of those involved in the July 27, 2003, Makati incident."

According to her, Enriquez made her be-

lieve that "The transfer of the property in my name was resorted to because... [Enriquez] was, at that time having difficulties in obtaining clearances/permits from the City of Mandaluyong for the property."

Enriquez allegedly intimated that "it would be easier for her to dispose the property if it was not registered under her name," the statement explained.

Earlier, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. confirmed that the condominium unit had been owned by Enriquez.

City records said the unit, which is 10 steps away from the Mandaluyong City-San Juan boundary, was bought by Enriquez in 1999 but later "sold" to Magpoc in July 2002 for P3.5 million.

Abalos had expressed doubts on the sale since the condominium unit, which was built by the Joseph Estrada-Luisa Pimentel (JELP) Real Estate Development Corp., was easily worth 6 to 10 million.

The three-story house was raided by a joint police and military team last July 27 after residents reported the presence of armed men at the place.

Found at the condominium were bullets, camouflage uniforms, pistol belts, flippers, backpacks, red armbands and a flag that bore the rebel soldiers' "Magdalo" symbol.

An intelligence official of the Philippine Navy said 30 to 40 of the rebels used the unit to prepare for the Makati siege.

The Mandaluyong property is only one of three houses identified and investigated in connection with the failed mutiny.

LAARNI/A23

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SPORTS



■ **Slow-starting
Aces turn
to Peek, Arigo** /A26

■ **RP jungolfers
snare crowns** /A27



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Furyk finishes
strong, wrests
1-stroke lead** /A28

■ **Malaysian nears
badminton title** /A30



■ **Montoya out
to claim 1st win** /A31

■ **Sanchez nears
Cannes crown** /A32

Tams nip Warriors as Yap flubs shot

GAMES THURSDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—NU vs UE (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UP (Srs)
6 p.m.—UST vs UP (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

WARRIOR James Yap bungled two crucial free throws with five seconds left as the Far Eastern Tamaraws escaped with a thrilling 64-62 decision over University of the East at the Blue Eagle gym last night and seized the solo leadership in the UAAP Men's Basketball Championship.

Known for his steady shooting, the 6-foot-3 Yap had the chance to send the game into overtime when Rhagnee Sinco fouled him, with the Warriors behind by two, 62-64.

But Yap lost his touch as he miserably flubbed his first gift shot. He deliberately missed the second shot, hoping for a follow-up. But the ball bounced off the board long and playmaker Paul Artadi was forced to heave a shot near the half-court. The ball didn't even touch the basket.

This was the second straight game that the Tamaraws went through a cliffhanger before scoring a win.

FEU improved its record to 5-1, followed by La Salle at 4-1. UE absorbed its second loss in four games after getting ambushed by La Salle, 84-65, last Thursday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Yap's boners capped the thriller of a game which saw the Warriors tie the game 56-56, with 4:46 left on Arnold Booker's inside plays.

But James Razon, Rhagnee Sinco and Gerard Jones gave FEU the driver's seat anew, 63-56.

In the second game, Adamson surprised Sto. Tomas, 60-57. This was the first time in three years that the Falcons beat the Tigers.

First Game (Srs)
ADAMSON 60—Abadla 15, Hate 11, Tagupa 7, Catabay 7, Bono 5, Poloyapoy 5, Tajonera 4, Gandarosa 2, Alonzo 2, Tiongco 2, Cabahug 0, Kong 0.

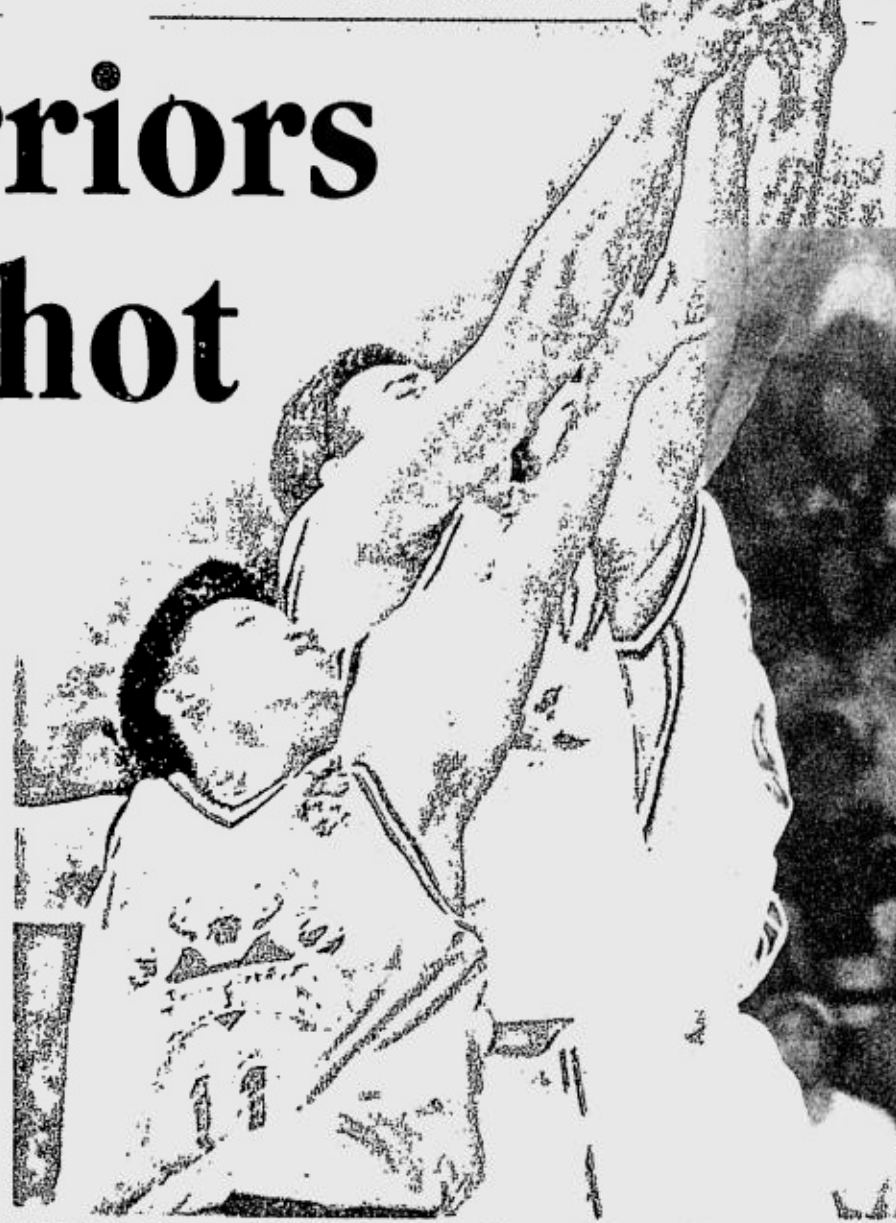
UST 57—Espiritu 22, Vizcarra 10, De Guzman 7, Luanzon 6, Evangelista 4, Hubalde 3, Villamin 2, Cortez 2, Manansala 1.

Quarters: 15-16, 39-32, 46-42, 60-57

Second Game (Srs)
FEU 64—Jones 11, Santos 11, Sinco 9, Isip 8, Miranda 7, Zablan 5, Razon 5, Rizada 4, Catli 3, Sierra 1, Gutierrez 0.

UE 62—Yap 15, Artadi 12, Booker 9, Canaleta 8, Ormiling 8, Estrada 7, Tan 3, Butel 0, Masbang 0.

Quarters: 21-13, 35-32, 50-43, 64-62



UST's Jinino Manansala (left) is dwarfed by Adamson's Kenneth Bono in a rebound battle.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Jenny falters, trails Lebouc by 11

LAST year, Jenny Rosales holed out in the third round of the Weetabix Women's British Open pondering on a victory that she almost got.

Yesterday, J-Ro saw her chances swallowed by the deep pot bunkers of the Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club and ended up thinking of something else than winning.

The bunkers sent Rosales into the most awkward, even unplayable, situations in a disastrous finishing stretch as Rosales went four over down the last five holes for a 76 and a 217 total that pulled her down to a share of

JENNY/A26

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Slow-starting Aces turn to Peek, Arigo

GAMES WEDNESDAY

(Cuneta Astrodome)

5 p.m.—FedEx vs Yonsei U

7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Magnolia-Jilín

By June Navarro

TRAILING for two quarters, the Alaska Aces thought they were done for the night. Not until Ali Peek and John Arigo pulled them through.

Peek and Arigo led a huge turnaround and fended off a late charge by the Coca-Cola Tigers as the Aces posted a pulsating 81-78 win last night to grab the lead in Group B of the Samsung-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"When Coca-Cola jumped on us, I thought we're already doomed. We somehow recovered in the second half and luckily sustained it to the end," said Peek, who led the Aces with 18 points and eight rebounds.

Arigo, who poured 11 of his 13 points in the final half, was just as thrilled after helping the Aces turn a 38-32 deficit to a 57-47 edge after three quarters.

"It was really a slow start but we refused to be bothered by it, so we pounced on every opportunity that came our way," said Arigo.

The Aces improved to 2-0. It was the Tigers' first loss in two games.

Don Allado and rookies Mike Cortez and Brandon Cablay also made their presence felt, acting as able supporters while Peek and Arigo were doing their thing.

Four successive turnovers in the final two minutes, however, almost cost the Aces their hard-earned win.

Employing a smothering full-court defense, Rudy Hatfield, Leo Avenido and Rafi Reavis fearlessly attacked the basket as the Tigers came within striking distance, 73-69, with 1:16 left.



BRANDON Cablay of Alaska foils a drive by Rudy Hatfield (left) of Coke during their PBA game last night. Alaska won, 81-78.

Reavis then slammed a two-handed alleyhoop dunk from an inbound pass by Jeffrey Cariaso then connected with a long jumper that moved the Tigers threateningly close, 74-73, 31 seconds remaining.

In the second game, Talk 'N Text thumped Lamoiyan-Novis Sad of Yugoslavia, 110-89, for its second straight win and a share of the lead in Group B

with Red Bull Barako. The Yugos fell to 0-2.

SCORES:

First Game
ALASKA 81—Peek 18, Cortez 16, Al-lado 14, Arigo 13, Cablay 12, Duat 6, Felhi 2, Padilla 0, Camaso 0.

COCA-COLA 78—Reavis 18, Avenido 15, Wainwright 9, Hatfield 9, Carlos 9, Hugnat 4, Chia 4, Bolado 4, Julino 3, Antonio 3, Morano 0.

Quarters: 15-21, 32-38, 57-47, 81-78.

81-78.

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 110—Talulava 32, Belano 23, Alapag 21, Pablo 11, Carey 8, Fran 4, Telan 4, Ravena 3, Villa 2, Manalo 2.

NOVI SAD 89—Radovanovic 30, Belglanski 13, Subasic 13, Delfic 11, Todorovic 10, Kos 6, Popovic 4, Durovic 2, Vilic 0.

Quarters: 28-15, 51-44, 80-65, 110-89

San Beda, JRU try to stay on top

STANDINGS	W	L	STANDINGS	W	L
Seniors			Juniors		
JRU	5	2	SBC	7	0
Letran	5	2	Letran	5	2
SBC	5	2	SSC-R	5	2
SSC-R	4	3	LSGH	4	3
Mapua	4	3	Mapua	4	3
PCU	3	4	PCU	2	5
UPHR	2	5	JRU	1	6
CSB	0	7	UPHR	0	7

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs PCU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs CSB (jrs/srs)

SAN BEDA College and Jose Rizal University tackle separate foes hoping to extend their domination at the start of the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Sharing identical records with Letran at 5-2, the Red Lions face the Philippine Christian University Dolphins at 1:15 p.m. before the Heavy Bombers meet the luckless College of St. Benilde Blazers at 4:45 p.m.

San Beda will play minus slotman Michael Casino, who was slapped a one-game suspension after figuring in a fight with Mapua's Nat Cruz during the Lions' recent victory over the Cardinals.

June Navarro

Jenny falters, trails Lebouc by 11

From page A25

29th in the standings, 11 big strokes off the pacesetter Patricia Meunier-Lebouc of France.

After playing the first 13 holes at perfect par, Rosales' troubles started on the 14th where she landed on a green-side trap and had to hit to the opposite direction. Bogey.

Then on the par-5 15th, the player carrying the banner of Pagcor and the American Eye Center on the LPGA Tour found herself on a kneeling position just to get out of the bunker. Another bogey.

The final blow came on the 18th after she hooked her approach into another bunker and nestled close to the wall. She needed two shots to get out and took a double-bogey, certainly not the way to end a birdie-less day.

Meunier-Lebouc, who is 10 weeks pregnant, fired a 5-under 67 to lead Se Ri Pak and Wendy Ward by one stroke after three rounds at 10-under 206.

"I'm happy to get on the golf course and play," said Meunier-Lebouc, expecting her first child. "I have no choice. I know I feel I just have to enjoy being out there and hitting one shot after another."

Pak, a former champion and four-time major winner, and Ward each carded a 69 for 207. And Meunier-Lebouc also will have to shake Annika Sorenstam and Karrie Webb.

Sorenstam, who won this year's LPGA Championship, is at 208 while Webb, the defending champion, is at 209.

Bong Lopez, the swing coach of Rosales, said that the bad breaks that usually go with links golf got the better of J-Ro.

"Those bogeys could have been recovered hadn't she missed at least six birdie chances. The breaks really went against her this time and we're just hoping for a better round tomorrow," said Lopez in a text message.

Rosales will be back in a two-some with Iben Tinning of Denmark, one of her flightmates in the first two rounds, in Round 4.

Heather Bowie led by two strokes entering the day in her bid for her first pro title. But she tumbled from the Lytham St. Annes leaderboard



ROSALES



LEBOUC

when she lost her ball at the 11th hole and took a double-bogey 7. She wound up at 210, sharing sixth place.

"I know it's tough to be leading in a major championship, but I've been that already in the one that I won," she said.

She birdied four of the first five holes and then added an eagle-3 at the sixth where her 3-wood second shot wound up 5 feet from the hole.

"I felt a little better on course, but it's still tough," she said.

Sorenstam, a winner of five majors, had a 68 to move into contention. Webb, with six majors, shot a 70.

That means there are winners of a combined 16 majors in the top five on the leaderboard entering Sunday's final round in which Sorenstam and Pak will be playing partners.

Sorenstam eagled the par-5 sixth by chipping in from 20 feet and added two more birdies in a bogey-free round.

"I'm back where I want to be—having a chance to win the British Open," said the Swede, a three-time runner-up in this event. "I think right now I'm in the perfect spot. I will have played the same holes before which is a good thing."

Pak won this tournament two years ago at Sunningdale. The South Korean knows she should be leading but missed par puts at Nos. 17 and 18 and finished bogey-bogey.

At the last hole, her tee shot found a fairway bunker and she had to chip to the fairway. She hit a superb third shot to 15 feet but again misread the lie.

"I think I misread two in a row," Pak said. "I didn't much see the break, but the ball went to the right. But no matter what I miss or make, I'm in good shape."

Ward, who started out 6 under, picked up four birdies by the 10th. But she bogeyed the last hole when she missed the green with her second shot.

"It's frustrating ending with a bogey and having a 9-iron in your hands and missing the green," she said. "I just got a little aggressive with my approach and came over the top of it a little bit."

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AGOJO hangs on. ROGER MARGALLO

Jayvie retains Optimist lead despite triple bogey

JAYVIE Agojo survived a triple-bogey misadventure on the 17th hole yesterday to hang on to a one-stroke lead going into the final round of the Optimist International junior golf championships at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The 16-year-old Agojo of OB Montessori-Greenhills finished with a five-over-par 77 mainly because of an errant drive that

went out-of-bounds on No. 17 and almost lost the lead to the fast-charging Mary Calderon. Agojo had a 54-hole total of 227.

Calderon, a native of Orlando, Florida who was down by five before the round, assembled a one-over 73 and set the stage for a final round showdown for the 16-18 years crown with Agojo.

Agojo is bidding for her second straight victory in the Optimist International after winning the

14-15 years division last year. She is also eyeing to add another victory to her earlier conquests in Temecula and the San Francisco Juniors.

"It's going to be a very interesting battle since most of my rivals are taller and older. I just hope to avoid making big mistakes like that one on the 17th," said Agojo.

Jolan Miñoza, the lone RP bet in the boys 16-18 years, missed the cut.

MILO MARATHON

Piamonte, Diaz rule Davao regional

DAVAO CITY—Rolando Piamonte and veteran runner Stella Mamac-Diaz ruled yesterday's regional elimination leg of the 27th National Milo Marathon at the PTA Ground here.

Piamonte completed the 20-km course in one hour, eight minutes and 31 seconds to pocket the men's title even as Mamac-Diaz was clocked at one hour, 25 minutes and nine seconds to bag the women's crown.

"Ngayon lang ako sumali sa 20-k dito. Sinuwerte nga at nanalo ako," said Piamonte, who is an enlisted member of the Philippine Army. "Hindi pa nga ako nakatako ng 42-k kaya kailangan kong magsaysay para hindi naman tayo mapahiya sa Maynila."

Piamonte and Alquin Bolivar ran side by side for about 18 km before the 28-year-old Armyman pulled away for the win.

Bolivar placed second at 1:08:53. Roletto Cuevas came in third at 1:09:33.

Mamac-Diaz, meanwhile, returned to competitive running in 2001 to rule the Gen. Santos City leg.

"Medyo nasa kundisyon na uli ako. Sampung taon din akong tumigil sa pagtakbo, eh," said the 31-year-old Mamac-Diaz, who stopped running when she got married in 1992. Her husband, Placido Diaz, also won in the men's 5-k run.

Mamac-Diaz fell two seconds short of winning the Davao City leg last year behind Monaliza Ambasa. Ambasa, meanwhile, did not join the race yesterday but will compete in the Gen. Santos City leg next month.

Placing second and third, respectively, were Jho-an Banayag (1:25:53) and Genalyn Cañete (1:30:58). All three will advance to

the 42-k Grand National Finals in Metro Manila on Oct. 19.

"Yung national finals talaga ang target ko. Kasi noong 2001 nag fifth place ako tapos last year nag ninth place lang ako," said Mamac-Diaz, who first ran in the annual Milo Marathon in 1988.

Diaz was timed at 16 minutes and 16 seconds to rule the men's 5-k run of the annual race held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Bayview Park Hotel, MyGlobe, Powerbar and the Department of Tourism.

Mark Christian Galaur (17:34) and Paul Gongob (17:56) placed second and third, respectively.

The top three finishers in the women's 5-k race were Shiela Maravillas (21:22), Janette Damiles (21:24) and Deza Mahilum (21:27).



ARDINA

US KIDS WORLD RP jungolfers snare crowns

DOTTIE Ardina and Allenby Jiro "AR" Ramos put an exclamation point to the campaign of Filipino jungolfers in America when they emerged as champions Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in the fourth US Kids World Golf Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Ardina scored a two-under-par 34 in the final round to rule the division for 9-year-olds by three strokes with her 107 total at the Williamsburg National Golf Club. The former junior world champion won for the second straight year in the US Kids after her victory in the 8-year-old category last year.

Ramos, a first grader at La Salle-Greenhills, did even better.

The 6-year-old Ramos went all the way with his three-under 33 good for a six-shot win in his division. He fired a six-under 30 in the first round and zoomed ahead by five with a 32 the next day.

Ardina also powered the Philippines to a runner-up finish behind Mexico in the team competition for girls, joining hands with Kristina Potenciano, Mia Piccio, Debbie de Villa and Angelika Datingaling.

The other RP bets sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Philippine Sports Commission, Samsung, Airlift Asia, Globang Lighting and MCCI did well with Wolen Juan Su-

peral ending up second in the boys 10 years division, Potenciano fourth in the girls 8 years division, Piccio fourth in the girls 11 years age-group, de Villa seventh in the 12 years category and Miguel Tabuena seventh in the boys 8 years bracket.

Tabuena and Superal lost their bids for a followup to their winning performances in the Desert Junior Classic in Palm Springs, California after struggling in the rain and mud.

Amalia Montecillo, chair of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, praised the RP kids for showing to the world that the country remains a good source of jungolf talents.

"This is, indeed, one of our best campaigns in the United States. Our kids really worked hard all summer and my congratulations go to everybody in the team especially to their parents who have always given them the needed support," said Montecillo.

The victories of Ramos and Ardina came on the heels of wins by Jayvie Agojo in Temecula and San Francisco, Tonlits Asistio in Temecula and Superal, Tabuena and Terence Macatangay in Palm Springs, California. *Jong Arcano*

Miñoza under par, but in 27th

FRANKIE Miñoza closed out with a one-under-par 71 yesterday to earn a share of 27th place in the Aiful Cup at the Golf Club Twinfields in

Ishikawa, Japan. Miñoza shot four sub-par rounds after earlier efforts of 69, 70 and 71 for a 281 aggregate but still finished 12 shots behind the winner.



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Doyle up by two after 63

ALLEN Doyle didn't want to be the best hockey player on the course. He just wanted to be the best golfer.

The former Division II defenseman shot a tournament-record 8-under 63—including a 29 on the front nine—to take the lead at 11-under after two rounds of the Fleet-Boston Classic.

Defending champion Bob Gilder shot a 65 to move to 9-under and into a tie for second with James Mason, who was 5-under for the day at the 6,591-yard, par-71 Nashawtuc Country Club. First-round leader Bruce Fleisher was among five tied at 7 under.

The tournament also included a charity competition among current and retired NHL players. Hall of Fame goalie Grant Fuhr topped that field, shooting a 3-under-68 to take a six-stroke lead over Tampa Bay Lightning forward Ben Clymer, who played in the group with Gilder and Doyle.

"There are a lot of people who say I'm a golfer in a hockey player's body," Doyle said, adding that his hockey experience helps him as a golfer. "I don't think I could have brought myself to the level that I'm at if I hadn't played the sport and developed those strengths."

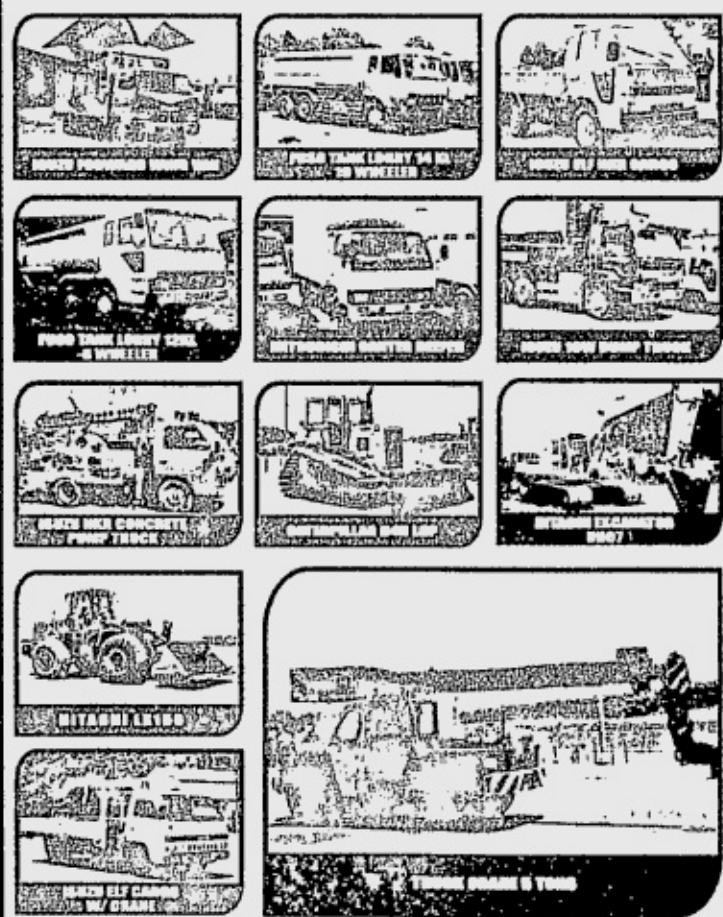
Doyle played high school hockey at local powerhouse Catholic Memorial before going to Nor-

wich (Vt.) University, where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He was good enough for an invita-

tion to try out for the 1972 US Olympic team, but couldn't because he was in the Army Signal Corps.

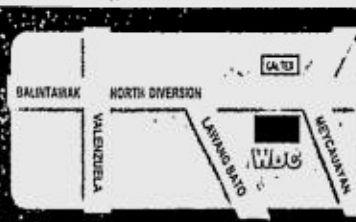
He didn't turn pro as a golfer until 1995, and at 47 he was the oldest rookie in PGA Tour history. *AP*

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GONZALEZ (left) will meet Henman in the finals.

REUTERS

Gonzalez stuns boyhood idol Agassi in thriller

WASHINGTON—Chile's Fernando Gonzalez stunned world number one Andre Agassi, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) here Saturday, ousting his boyhood idol to reach the final of the 600,000-dollar ATP Washington Classic final.

In what he called the greatest triumph of his career, Gonzalez ended the eight-time Grand Slam champion's bid for his sixth crown here in their first career meeting.

"It's a dream come true," Gonzalez said. "I grew up watching and enjoying how Andre plays. I've been watching him play since 15 years ago. I don't think he knows who I am so that's good for me."

"I really enjoyed this moment. I was happy just to be on the court against Andre. I beat him so I'm double happy. It's amazing." Four days past his 23rd birthday, the fourth-seeded claycourt star advanced to his first hardcourt final, a Sunday showdown with Britain's Tim Henman, who saved a match point to beat US second seed Andy Roddick, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/1).

"Not many hit the ball harder than him," Henman said of Gonzalez. "I know it's going to be tough out there." Gonzalez, whose three ATP titles all came on clay, has a 2-1 career edge on Henman, beating him in 2002 Masters Series events on Rome clay and Cincinnati's hardcourts. Henman ousted him in the second round of the 2000 US Open.

Only 2-4 on hardcourts this year until this week, Gonzalez rallied from a break down in the second set to oust Agassi, who marveled at the difficult shots which the South American swatted for winners.

"With him, the match can turn around so quickly," Agassi said. "He plays some of the lowest percentage shots. You think he's go-

ing to miss and when he gets a few of those, you can get in trouble pretty fast.

"He played low percentage risky shots that paid off for him. All you can say is 'too good'. He came up with some great shots at the end," Gonzalez said he ponders being more conservative after losing, but does not want to change a style that has brought him to 14th in the rankings.

"Sometimes (it's stupid). But sometimes it saves me," Gonzalez said. "I just try to go for it. Some days I'm going to lose. Some days I'm going to win." Agassi's second double fault of the match handed Gonzalez a 4-2 lead in the third set, but Gonzalez returned the break, double faulting on match point in the ninth game and eventually losing it to keep Agassi's hopes alive.

Gonzalez grabbed a 4-1 edge in the tie-breaker but Agassi battled back to level at 5-5. Gonzalez then smacked a pair of stunning backhand winners to end matters after two hours.

"I wasn't lucky. I practice that shot," Gonzalez said. "But two in a row, well, maybe I was a little bit lucky." Gonzalez had some luck to win the second set. In the ninth game, he saved a pair of break points, blasting aces of 132 mph and 128 mph past his 33-year-old rival, then took a break for the set on a net cord winner.

"I had the match in my control," Agassi said. "He played three big drop shots. I would hate to go to sleep at night counting on that shot. But that said, he played them well."

"You have to expect the unexpected. He takes big cuts at the ball, makes a lot of errors, then goes through stretches where he makes a lot of winners. That's where you have got to hold on." AFP

Clijsters gains finals, closes in on N

SAN DIEGO, California—Belgian rivals Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne set up a rematch of the French Open final, posting semifinal victories at the 1 million-dollar WTA Tour event here.

Second-seeded Clijsters, with an eye on the world No. 1 ranking, saw off Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 6-3, in just 59 minutes.

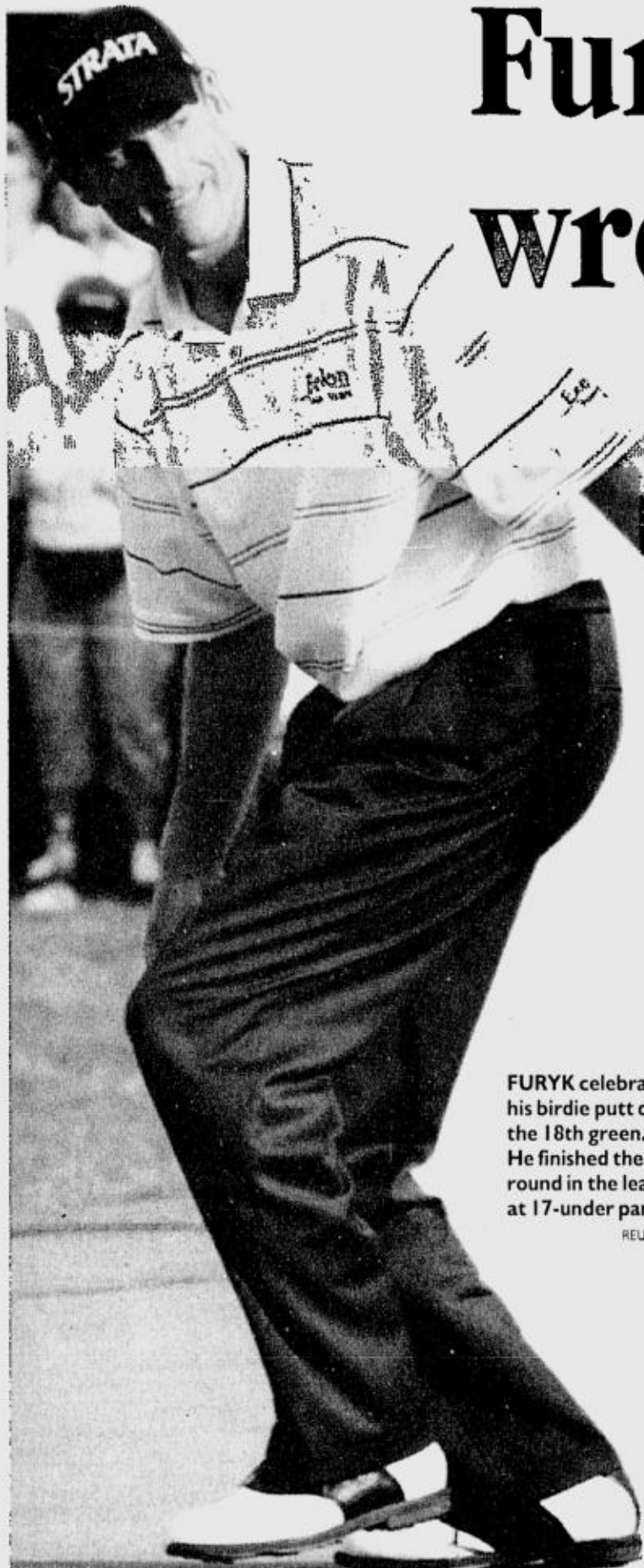
Henin-Hardenne, winner of two of the last three matches against her compatriot, including the Roland Garros final, easily disposed of Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, 6-1, 6-3, in a semifinal match.

As well as avenging a Grand Slam defeat, Clijsters could take another step toward the world number one spot with a win on Sunday.

The 20-year-old could overtake Serena Williams for the top spot in the rankings as early as next week in Los Angeles. The winner of the Australian Open and Wimbledon, Williams will be sidelined 6-8 weeks, missing the US Open, following left knee surgery on Friday.

"You don't wish it on anyone, especially her," Clijsters said of Serena.

"What she's done for women is incredible. I know how when I couldn't play because of my shoulder, and she has the coming up and is the champion. It must be very hard for her. If she does rise to the top, I think she deserves it. I think Clijsters doesn't plan to change anything. No matter what I am, I'm



FURYK celebrates his birdie putt on the 18th green. He finished the round in the lead at 17-under par.

REUTERS

Furyk finishes wrests 1-stroke

US Open champ k

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—US Open champion Matt Furryk fired a seven-under 65 on Saturday, gaining a two-stroke separation from Tiger Woods and vaulting into a tie for the lead after the third round of the 4 million-dollar Buick Open.

"I don't think it really matters that I'm not the leader," Furryk said of the massive crowd that followed him and Woods.

"I want to go out and get a low number, and whether I'm playing with Tiger or someone else, it doesn't make that much of a difference other than it felt like 20,000 people were watching us."

The throng watched Furryk roll in a long, breaking birdie at the final hole to push his score total to 17-under 199, one shot better than Carl Paulson.

"Finishing up was nice," Furryk said. "I was trying to roll that long putt up there and got an extra bonus. It leaves a good taste in my mouth."

After making six birdies over the first 14 holes, Furryk parred the next three as Woods picked up a stroke at each.

But Woods managed just a par at the closing hole of the 7,127-yard Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club, ending a run of three birdies. The defending champion had a three-under 69 to lie four strokes back.

"When Tiger birdied 15, 16, 17, things got pretty crazy out there," Furryk said. "There was a lot going on at that time, and you have to be patient,

WOODS reacts to a missed p

let things quiet down, and th

it." Woods was one of a handful of players whose second rounds were shortened by Friday's rain. More rain is expected Sunday, and it will go out early in threesomes in an effort to beat the rain.

"There's one thing we control, and that's the weather," said. "We need to start early."

Lafeber, Scott two in front after 3 rounds

LODDEKOPINGE, Sweden—Netherlands' Maarten Lafeber and Australia's Scott Parris were the last hole for a 3-under-par 69 to share the lead with Scott going into the final round of the Scandinavian Masters.

Scott, an Australian, shot a 67, just one stroke off the record set earlier in the day.

Hewitt sets up title clash with Ferreira

LOS ANGELES—Lleyton Hewitt, trying to salvage a disappointing year by his standards, defeated error-prone Nicolas Kiefer 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals of the Mercedes-Benz Cup on Saturday.

The top-seeded Hewitt advanced to Sunday's final against No. 7 Wayne Ferreira, who beat fifth-seeded Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 7-5.

Ferreira is playing his first tournament since being carried off court at the French Open with a groin injury that caused him to play in pain almost daily for the last two years.

"I played great the whole match. I tried to be real aggressive on second serves," he said. "I returned so well and that's big against him. I'm feeling terrible, but I'm enjoying competing."

Philippoussis had 13 aces, nine less than in a quarterfinal victory over Gustavo Kuerten on Friday night. But he committed 37 unforced errors, often failing to harness his powerful groundstrokes.

"It's a bit of a shame," he said. "I just didn't feel like I was hitting the ball. I went for shots that weren't there. He just played the bigger points

better than I did."

Both players stayed on serve until the 11th game of the second set. Ferreira lobbed over the 6-foot-4 Philippoussis to set up break point. He hit a running one-handed backhand winner on the line to take a 6-5 lead.

"That was lucky, very lucky," Ferreira said.

He trailed 15-30 on his serve before hitting a 111-mph (178.5-kph) ace. Philippoussis returned the next serve long to set up match point. The Australian sent a backhand long to close out the match. AP

Iron Mike's finances down for the count



TYSON sports a new tattoo as he appears in court.

NEW YORK—Mike Tyson has filed for protection in US Bankruptcy Court, claiming his finances are in disarray.

The former heavyweight champion has squandered nearly \$300 million in ring earnings through lavish spending and bad advice. Tyson's handlers said in a news release on Friday that Tyson has taken control of himself and wants to resolve his financial problems.

They blamed his out-of-control spending habits and subsequent mounting debt on mismanagement by others.

"As a professional fighter, who relied on others to manage his affairs, he discovered that his debts far exceeded his assets," Tyson's attorney Debra Grassgreen said.

"Now, he has taken the lead in bringing order to his financial affairs."

The fighter frittered away millions on mansions, Bentleys, jewelry, and even Bengal tigers while buying extravagant gifts for his entourage.

Match promoter Don King also

took a huge chunk.

Tyson has a \$100 million lawsuit pending against King that goes to trial in September. The suit claims King cheated Tyson out of millions after he got out of prison in 1995 and went back to fighting for the promoter.

Earlier this year, as part of a divorce settlement, Tyson agreed to pay his ex-wife, Monica, \$6.5 million from future earnings.

Besides his financial problems, Tyson is also facing possible jail time again.

He pleaded innocent last month to misdemeanor assault, harassment and disorderly conduct charges for pummeling two men during a brawl at a Brooklyn hotel on June 21.

Tyson's lawyers claimed his actions were justified because the two men allegedly menaced the boxer first by telling him they were armed. Prosecutors say the assault went too far.

Tyson, who served three years in prison for rape in the 1990s, faces up to a year if convicted of the latest charges. AP



NEW York's Hideki Matsui tries to retrieve a grounder by Miguel Tejada of the Oakland Athletics in the first inning.

Giambi hits 3 home runs as Yankees whip A's

OAKLAND, California—Jason Giambi hit a three-run homer and Bernie Williams had four hits and two RBIs as the New York Yankees tagged Barry Zito for eight runs in a 10-7 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Saturday.

John Flaherty and Hideki Matsui also homered for the Yankees, who returned from Friday night's tough extra-inning loss to Oakland with an impressive power display.

It was the shortest start of the season for Zito (8-9), who lasted just three innings. He set up New York's five unearned runs in the second inning with a defensive mistake.

Jeff Weaver (6-8) recovered from a

rough beginning to earn his victory in five weeks. He allowed only 6 1-3 innings. Mariano Rivera pitched the final inning.

Eric Chavez went 4-for-4 in 13 games. Orioles 11, Red Sox 10.

In Baltimore, Luis Matos capped a seven-run sixth inning to help the Orioles win their fourth straight home game and a 11-5 since the All-Star break.

o.1 ranking

st's tennis had I felt se of my US Open defending hard for o. I rank- reer; Cli- going to stay who I am," she said. "I won't change my personality, I won't feel special to any other people because I'm No. 1. I'm not there yet but if that happens, I'll enjoy everything. It's hard to know what will happen to me because I haven't had the experience yet." Clijsters is experiencing a week without being challenged so far. She has yielded just 14 total games for the week. **AFP**

strong, e lead

leeps Tiger at bay

on. Jim some the lead a good chance of finishing." Paulson also shot a 65, rolling in a 20-foot eagle putt at the par-five 16th and leaving a nine-iron three feet from the cup for a birdie at 18.

Paulson is the only player in the top 10 who has not won on the PGA Tour and will be playing in the final group for the first time since the 2001 Players Championship. He said he has no plans for Sunday.

"It's kind of nice that I'm this tired, because I really don't have one," he said. "I'm just going, finding my ball and hitting it, trying to make every putt I've got."

Paulson was one stroke in front of Neal Lancaster, who played with Furyk and Woods and fired a 66. His bogey-free round included birdies on numbers 16 and 17.

Red-hot Kenny Perry signed for a 66 to join a quartet at 14-under 202. The 2001 champion here, Perry has finished in the top 10 in his last six starts, winning three times.

Gunning for his fifth title of the year, Woods could not build on some early momentum. Continuing his second round at No. 16, he eagled the hole.

But he played par golf until his late birdie flurry as he was hampered by a couple of shaky drives.

Briny Baird (65) and Woody Austin (68) were tied with Woods at 203. **AFP**

The Ne- birdied ar 69 Sa- th Adam nd of the

r a flaw- ne course y by Carl

Jones keys Braves' win over Dodgers

ATLANTA—Chipper Jones drove in three runs and Mike Hampton picked up his fifth straight win to earn the Atlanta Braves a 6-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Saturday.

The Braves (73-37) have the best record in the major leagues after claiming their third successive win and seventh in 10 games.

Hampton (8-5) allowed four runs on six hits with six strikeouts and one walk in 6 2/3 innings. John Smoltz struck out the side in the ninth for his 42nd save.

Gary Sheffield drove in two runs for Atlanta while Rafael Furcal had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run for the Braves. Marcus Giles added two hits and scored two runs.

Andy Ashby (2-9) gave up five runs on eight hits over 4 1/3 innings to take the loss, even though the Dodgers scored more than three runs in a game for the first time since July 22.

Los Angeles had scored only 11 runs in its previous nine games but hit back Saturday from a four-run deficit with a three-run seventh inning.

Rickey Henderson had two hits and an RBI for the Dodgers.

In Cincinnati, Barry Larkin's bases-loaded walk in the seventh inning yielded the winning run as the Reds beat the San Francisco Giants 5-4.

D'Angelo Jimenez homered for the Reds while Sean Casey drove in two runs and Ray Olmedo had three hits.

Ryan Wagner (1-0) allowed two runs on two hits over two innings while Felix Heredia tossed a scoreless ninth for his first save of the season.

Barry Bonds homered for the Giants, his 34th of the season and 647th of his career. **Reuters**



IAN Scally of the USA crashes into a fallen Felipe Casanova of Chile during their hockey match.

Overpowering show by Cuban, US athletes

SANTO DOMINGO—Cuba and the United States shared the gold medals between them on the opening day of the Pan American Games on Saturday.

Brazil, meanwhile, received an apology from the Dominican Republic's president after a flag containing "dreadful mistakes" was used in the opening ceremony.

Mexico, under national coach Ricardo Lavolpe, was held to an embarrassing 1-1 draw by Guatemala in soccer and Argentina smashed an astonishing 30 goals past the Dominican Republic in men's hockey.

After months of worrying whether the host nation would

finish all the venues in time and domestic controversy about the cost of staging the event, the Games finally began with Cuba taking the first gold.

Eglis Cruz won the women's 10 meter air rifle in the shooting, one of eight sports which are being used as qualifying contests for next year's Olympics, with a Games record of 497.4 points.

The next four golds went to the US—two in the fencing, where Dan Kellner won the men's individual foil and Sada Jacobson the women's individual sabre, one in the women's team gymnastics and another in shooting as Jason Turner took the men's 10 meter air pistol.

Cuba took the day's last remaining gold by winning the men's team gymnastics.

The day started on a sour note as Brazil's delegation protested about the flag behind which their athletes paraded during Friday's opening ceremony.

Delegation chief Marcus Vinicius Freire criticized the "disrespectful manner in which the Brazilian flag was treated by the local organizing committee."

Back on the sports field, the host nation's hockey team were thrashed 30-0 by Argentina.

In soccer, Mexico needed a penalty from Diego Martinez to scrape a 1-1 draw with underdogs Guatemala. **Reuters**

v o g u e



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XIA Xuanze of China returns a backhand to compatriot Bao Chunlai during their semifinal match. Xia won and will face Malaysia's Wong Choon Hann in the finals.

That's Wong-derful!

Masterful Malaysian nears a first

BIRMINGHAM, England—Wong Choon Hann, a leaping left-hander from Kuala Lumpur, has a chance of becoming one of the most surprising winners of a world title after hurtling into the men's singles final of the world badminton championships here Saturday.

The Malaysian, the first from his country to reach the finals of the tournament, had already beaten the fourth-

seeded Dane, Anders Boesen, and the sixth-seeded Asian champion from Indonesia Sony Kwi Kuncoro, and followed it by overcoming Korean giant-killer Shon Seung-mo, 15-5, 15-4.

Shon had beaten No.1 seed Chen Hong of China late the night before.

Wong likes to play clears and lifts to the back mixed with subtly disguised drops, and as soon as he gets anything short he's leaping into an attack with stunning suddenness.

Now he looks in good shape, and the ninth seed may be able to upset the odds again in the final, even though it is

against his hoodoo player Xia Xuanze, the fifth-seeded Chinese.

Xia has won all their previous meetings and likes this arena, having won the All-England title here in 2000. He downed unseeded compatriot Bao Chunlai, 15-11, 15-7, in the semifinals.

In women's action, Chinese world champion Gong Ruina, reached the final, beating All-England champion Zhou Mi, 11-2, 11-4, in a repeat of the 2001 final in Seville.

Gong had beaten former world champion Camilla Martin by winning the last 16 points in the quarterfinals. **AFP**

Russia, China dispute Grand Prix crown

ANDRIA, Italy—Russia and China will play for the World Grand Prix title in women's volleyball for the second year in a row after both teams emerged unbeaten from fourth-round matches Saturday.

China's defense wore down the Dutch team in four sets 25-19, 25-20,

25-27, 25-17, holding the Netherlands' usually hard-hitting Francien Huurman to 10 points.

Titleholder Russia, meanwhile, handily beat hosts Italy 3-1, before a packed house.

The Italians dodged Russia's firepower with timely fakes and well-

placed setting to take the first set 25-20. But the Russians quickly regrouped behind pinpoint spiking by the lanky 6-foot-7 Ekaterina Gamova to dominate the final three sets 25-15, 25-20, 25-17.

Later Saturday, the United States firmed up its bid for third place, beating South Korea 30-28, 25-21, 25-17. **AP**

Makati

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay deserves our congratulations for strictly implementing the anti-smoking law in his city. Not only has he embarked on a massive information campaign against the hazards of smoking, but he has also managed to involve his constituents, including about 25 senior citizens, who were recently deputized to apprehend violators of the city's ban on smoking.

These senior citizens, according to the no-nonsense hizzoner, will be authorized to enforce the smoking ban even when no police officer or personnel of the Makati Public Safety Department is around, adding these elders would be issued identification cards and badges, aside from also being authorized to collect the corresponding fines from the violators of the city's smoking ban. The mayor explained that these senior citizens are "credible and effective enforcers because they command the respect of other people, compelling them to observe the smoking ban out of basic decency."

On June 23, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law Republic Act 9211, also known as the Tobacco Regulation Act, which imposes an absolute ban on smoking in public places and restricts the packaging, use, sale, distribution and advertisement of cigarettes and tobacco products. Thus, smoking is banned in all public places, including schools, hospitals, restaurants, hotels and passenger vehicles. Violators could be meted out fines ranging P500 to P400,000 and jailed up from 30 days to three years.

Smoking, an addictive habit, is allowed only in a separate and enclosed room set up for such purpose by public institutions or establishments or in other places open to the public where there is no "No Smoking" sign posted in the area.

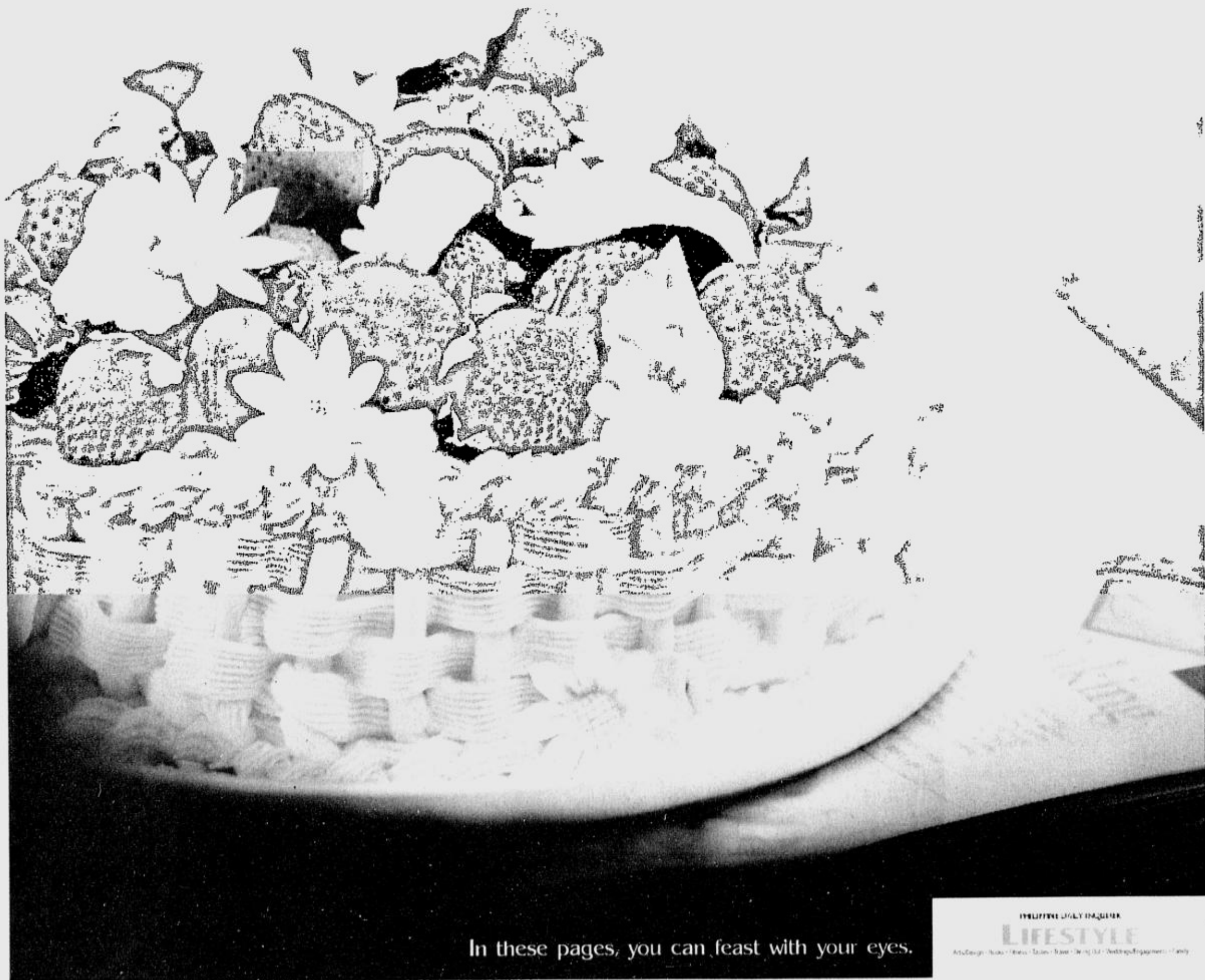
TRULY, A MAN ON THE GO. Belated greetings to track and field czar Go Teng Kok, who marked his 59th birthday recently. I'm glad that he is still alive and well having survived an ambush at the parking lot of his office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex where he was shot three times in the face on July 1.

Back in business again, Go is not only hosting the 15th Asian Athletics Championships on Sept. 19-23 at the RMSC oval, but he is also seeking a seat in the executive council of the powerful and influential International Amateur Athletics Federation which meets in Paris on Aug. 23. In my opinion, his chances of winning are pretty good. Go leaves for Paris on Aug. 17.

Supported by his friends and peers like Asian Athletics Association president Suresh Kalamdi of India and IAAF vice president Dr. Helmut Digel of Germany, the indefatigable Go got another boost on July 31, when Malacañang, through presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, wrote him a letter backing his candidacy. "You truly deserve to be elected in recognition of yourself and our country," Bunye said.

DANCE SPORT TRIVIA. Following the staging of the first World Championships for Dance in December 1922 in England, new bouncy dance steps were introduced. In the early 1930s, the jitterbug was born. But jitterbug, punctuated by its wild, uncontrolled movements and compulsive boogie-woogie music, was deemed too dangerous for public dancing and most ballroom balls banned it. However, dance professionals set about taming it and making it an acceptable ballroom dance. In its modified form, it flourished under a new name, the jive. The jive eventually became a standard dance in the Latin American group. It has adopted several names depending on where you live and who your teachers are. It is now called jive, swing or East Coast swing.

MORE ON PAST OLYMPIANS. This is a continuation of our list of the most outstanding men and women Olympians of the modern times. We resume with the 1932 Games where the star of the show was the American Mildred "Babe" Didriksen. Didriksen competed in three events in 1932 in Los Angeles, winning the gold medals in the 80m hurdles and javelin throw and a silver in the high jump. She later became a professional golfer and won 17 major titles... Jesse Owens, grandson of slaves, was one of the greatest athletes of all time. Owens won four golds, the 100m, 200m, the long jump and the 4x100m relay, in the 1936 Berlin Games, accomplishing his sterling feats with grace and confidence that broke Adolf Hitler's myth of Aryan superiority. A heavy smoker, Owens died of lung cancer in 1980.



In these pages, you can feast with your eyes.

SPORTSWATCH

Palaro bets top Pila race

PALARONG Pambansa-bound Idefonso Lapugot and Maricel Mariano took top honors in the boys and girls divisions, respectively, of the recent 1st Pila Heritage Run. The Southern Tagalog bet earned P1,500 each in the 3-km race supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Air21 and the municipal government of Pila, Laguna through Mayor Wilfredo M. Quiat and the Sangguniang Kabataan headed by Queen Alarva. Lapugot's clocking of 10 minutes and 12 seconds was seven seconds clear of second placer and fellow Straa campaigner John Lerie Villarino of Linga National High. He was also ahead of Lester Landan of Linga, who checked in at 10:27. The 13-year old Mariano, a Batang Pinoy and Straa gold medalist, clocked 11:53 while Rosemary Mendoza and her sister Ronalyn timed 11:57 and 12:09, respectively. Lapugot (Masico National High) and Mariano (Barangay Pook), along with third placer Ronalyn Mendoza (Masico), will compete in the Tubod, Lanao del Norte Palaro, set this November after hostilities between the MILF and government troops cancelled its original May 4-11 staging.

Santo Tomas booters rout PUP

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas took time to warm up, but when it did Polytechnic University of the Philippines was left biting dust, 6-1, recently in the Samsung Ladies Open football at the La Salle Zobel pitch. Unable to score in the first 25 minutes, UST poured in the goals in the next 65 while limiting PUP to a single goal by striker Cheryl Oktubre. Back-of-the-net strikes by Ginger Loarca in the 25th and 35th minutes and one by Alelei Bonifacio in the 44th had UST up 3-1 in the first half. Alelei came back with goals in the 62nd and 71st minute before striker April Pineda hammered the final goal in the 75th.

Los Borrachos gets Mizuno support

MIZUNO Sports Apparel and equipment has thrown its support behind the Los Borrachos football club. In the recent '7th-Year Anniversary' celebration of Los Borrachos FC at Coco Cabana, club president Paolo Sanchez announced the tie-up. Also present in the affair were Sascha Dembicki, team captain of the men's team and China Cojuangco, captain of the women's team. Last weekend, at the San Andres Gymnasium, the Borrachos, in their spanking red and white Mizuno's, defeated Onze/Archers FC, 8-5, in the United Football Association's (UFA) 'Futsal Tournament'. Borrachos got their goals from Oliver Oliva, Erwin Flores, Mike Alimurung (2), Sascha Dembicki (2) and Bryan Passion (2), who delivered a good looking bicycle-kick that caught the Onze keeper unawares.

Beckham captures Chinese heart



BECKHAM

BEIJING—David Beckham didn't score on his debut in Real Madrid's famous white shirt but his antics and the fan's adulation would have pleased club president Florentino Perez watching from the stands. Although coach Carlos Queiroz was non-committal on the England captain's performance in their 4-0 win over a Chinese XI there were enough signs to show the 35 million euros (about \$39 million) Real paid for him was money well spent. It wasn't classic Beckham. He didn't exhibit the deft touches of Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane, who were the standout players, but he uncorked two vintage free-kicks and his coordination with his new teammates was enough to keep the detractors at bay. It appears he has won the right midfield slot from Figo and was first choice for the setpieces against a stubborn Chinese team, led by ex-Everton star Li Wefeng. Comments timed for maximum publicity on the eve of the game by former Spanish coach Javier Clemente had derided his transfer as a costly mistake, given the side already had Figo, but the early indications are that Beckham can become an integral part of the La Liga champions. Clemente also noted that Beckham's public persona and activities off the field could end up creating disharmony in the squad, and on this he may have a point. **AFP**

Patrimonio sisters hurdle rivals

THE PATRIMONIO sisters, Clarice and Christine, beat their respective opponents to advance in their respective divisions in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2003 yesterday at the Philam Homes Tennis Club-QC. Clarice routed Jurenda Mendoza, 6-0, 6-1, in the 10-under unisex bracket while elder sister Christine edged Mary Rivero, 6-1, 6-4, to enter the second round in the girls' 12-under class. Clarice towed along Jose Ferrer, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Dexter Quilata; Kerwin Tan Tiu, who tripped Kevin Mamawal, 7-5, 7-6; and Angelo Rivero. Clarice and Christine are daughters of four-time PBA MVP Alvin Patrimonio. In the boys' 14-under division, Gerard Ngo ousted Riel Florea, 6-1, 6-0; Mark Balce downed Aldan Mosellina, 6-1, 6-1; Johnwill Baldonado nipped Homer Perez, 6-2, 6-4; Marvin Serito surprised Leyan Moncera 6-3, 6-1; Bobby Chio whipped Luis Mercado, 6-2, 6-1; and Patrick Arevalo blanked France Rivero, 6-0, 6-0. The netfest is organized by CTW with support from Milo and Wilson balls and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association.

WNCAA begins Aug. 22 at Philsports

THE 34TH season of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association-Adidas will start on Aug. 22 at the Philsports Arena. A campus tour today will kick off the search for the WNCAA-Adidas VJs and will culminate with a press presentation on Aug. 21. Two winners will be picked from each school while out of the total 28 winning VJs, another two will be chosen as the 34th season's main hosts. The league will open with the basketball and volleyball events. A motorcade will be held at 11 a.m. from the EDSA-Guadalupe intersection before the opening ceremonies at 1 p.m. This season's theme is "Kababaihan: Itaguyod ang Pamiliyag Pilipino at Kabataan" with Siena College of Quezon City as host. Vivian Manila of St. Scholastica's College was unanimously elected as league president for the sixth straight year. Other officers are Donny Sayre (vice president; University of the Assumption-Pampanga), Angie de la Cruz (secretary; St. Benedict's College), Lim Eng Peng (treasurer; Chiang Kai Shek), Rowena Angeles (auditor; Assumption College), directors Liza Bueta (Rizal Technological University) and Corazon Reyes (Miriam College) and liaison officer Carlo Galvez (Siena College of QC).

Boxing, athletics at PSA Forum

A MIXTURE of boxing, athletics and basketball will be the topic of discussion in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (Patafa) president Go Teng Kok, back in the sports scene following a failed assassination attempt on his life a month ago, will be bringing with him some of his athletes to assess their coming stint in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games while Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos accompanies boxers Rolly Lunas, the defending Pan-Asia Boxing Association junior flyweight champion, and Thai Decden Kengkarun to promote their title fight on Friday. To talk about basketball in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor is RP assistant team manager Danny Francisco. Session starts at 10:30 a.m.



SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM

Manila Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna in cooperation with Milo initiated the recent 2003 Milo Summer Tennis program at the NDC-PUP Tennis Club in Sta. Mesa where over 100 kids participated. Milo sports executive Pat Gocong (center) is shown congratulating a graduate.

Montoya out to claim 1st Grand Prix victory

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Juan Pablo Montoya is determined to win from pole position in the German Grand Prix on Sunday, a challenge he failed to achieve on seven occasions last year.

The Colombian driver grabbed his first pole of the season and the 11th of his career in final qualifying at Hockenheim on Saturday to lead a Williams one-two ahead of teammate Ralf Schumacher.

It is the first time he will start from the head of the grid since the 2002 Italian Grand Prix, and the Colombian driver is desperate to end his run of disappointments from pole.

"I'm confident that we are going to have a good race," Montoya told reporters. "Hopefully we can score some good points."

"We've all pulled together and the car was really good. I think we've got a really good race car."

Montoya has won only once af-



RUBENS Barrichello drives his Ferrari at the Hockenheim Formula One track, Saturday. Barrichello snatched a third fastest time for the final qualifying session of the German Gran Prix.

AP

ter topping the times in qualifying in Italy in his debut season in 2001 but hopes to clinch his third career victory at Hockenheim.

But, with hot temperatures expected for Sunday's race, he knows he needs reliability if he is to turn pole into victory, and re-

duce the 14-point gap held by championship leader Michael Schumacher of Ferrari.

"I think reliability is going to be a big factor," Montoya said. "I think we've been pretty strong this year on that and, if we can keep it up, it's going to be really

good for the championship."

Montoya had been frustrated after being out-performed by teammate Schumacher since winning the Monaco Grand Prix in June, but clinching pole at Hockenheim put the smile back on his face. **Reuters**

Rubillar repeats over Mananquil

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

JUANITO Rubillar, the country's best hope in the junior flyweight division, cleared one of the few hurdles left in his path before getting a World Boxing Council (WBC) title shot by stopping Rogelio Mananquil in a rematch at the Olivarez College Gym in Parañaque City Saturday night.

After a slow start, the taller Rubillar pressed the action with hard body shots in the second

and third rounds, forcing the tired Mananquil to stay in his stool—after the fourth round bell rang, making the WBC No. 1 ranked contender winner via technical knockout.

"Pinagpawisan din ako, Pero magandang tune-up para sa susunod kong laban," said Rubillar, who lived up to his prediction of improving on his split decision win over Mananquil on July 18, 1998, in Mandaluyong City.

Rubillar, who improved to 30 wins, 8 losses, 6 draws with 12 knockouts, promised to

continue his diligent training under Rene Busayong with his manager Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde's supervision in Sucat, Parañaque.

Rubillar said Elorde might get him a shot sooner that expected in a rematch against WBC junior fly champ Jorge "Traviesco" Arce of Mexico.

Elorde, the promoter in Saturday's fight card, is in Los Angeles, California, with wife Arlene since last week to negotiate with Arce's camp in Tijuana, Mexico.

Pacquiao to grace brod's title defense

Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CEBU City—IBF super-bantam champion Manny Pacquiao is expected to be present when the "Tribute to Champions" fight card unfolds on Aug. 30 with his brother Bobby defending the RP junior lightweight crown against top Cebuano prospect Bart Abapo in the 12-round main event here.

Pacquiao, coming off a third-round knockout victory over challenger Emmanuel Lucero at the Grand Olympic Auditorium last week, has vowed to be at ringside when his younger brother takes on Abapo, the undefeated No. 1 challenger among the country's 130-pounders.

Bobby beat arch-rival Baby Llorona Jr. in their third meeting on May 24 at the Ynares Sports Center in Antipolo City.

However, he'll be up against a more formidable foe this time in Abapo, who is unbeaten in 13 fights with 1 draw and 7 KOs.

"We are expecting a mammoth crowd to witness the Pacquiao-



PACQUIAO

Abapo fight. This will be huge especially that Manny is coming to visit and witness the event," said Cebu promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"Yes, he is coming. That's been his promise to you," con-

firmed Manny Pacquiao's personal trainer Buboy Fernandez when reached by this writer. He was referring to Pacquiao's earlier promise made to Cebu fight fans before he left for the US to face Lucero.

Aside from the Pacquiao-Abapo tiff, also expected to provide fireworks in the card is the 12-round confrontation between RP junior fly champ Bert Batawang and Roger Jack Maldecir of Kidapawan City.

The card, which is being held to honor Cebu's past champions Bernabe Villacampo, Frank Cedeño, Dodie Boy Peñalosa, Erik Chavez, and Gerry Peñalosa, also features the return appearance of former RP flyweight champ Z Gorres, who will take on Rommel Libradilla. Another Cebu flyweight phenom, Sherwin Paro, faces Jun Pader.

Donaires want Viloria

"EITHER one of us," is the short reply when brothers Glenn and Nonito Donaire were asked who would like to fight WBC Youth and NABF flyweight champ Brian Viloria first.

Both beaten by Viloria in the 2000 US Olympic team trials, Glenn and Nonito have followed their former amateur rival to Hawaii.

Both brothers will be fighting on Sept. 13 against separate foes at the Waikiki Kodak Hula arena grounds in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The 20-year-old, 5-foot-6 Nonito "The Filipino Flash" Donaire, 7-1 with 5 KOs, will be taking on Francisco Paredes in a 115-pound fight. Nonito has been unbeaten in his last six fights with the last victory coming on June 27 against Jorge Lopez who he

stopped in the first round. Before that, he beat Mark Sales in Manila.

Nonito had won the WBO title with a second-round demolition of Kaichon Sor Voraphin at the University of Guam last year.

Older brother 23-year-old Glenn, a 5-foot-5 orthodox fighter nicknamed "The Filipino Bomber," holds a record of 10 wins, 1 loss with 7 KOs. He annexed the WBO title vacated by his brother with a 12-round unanimous decision over Wangpanom Vor Saktawee Nov. 22 last year.

Glenn will be facing Rafael Chavez in a flyweight showdown.

Both brothers are currently training at the Kalakaua Boxing Gym located at the heart of Honolulu.

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TNT rules Lina caging

TALK 'N TEXT posted a come-from-behind 73-69 victory over Youth 4 Roco to rule the 2nd Bert Lina Cup Six Footers Basketball League at the Cebu Coliseum Saturday.

The Phone Pals banked on the heroics of 6-foot-3 Gerry Carilla, who scored six crucial charities in the stretch as TNT matched the title conquests of its Luzon counterparts in this weeklong event for players 18 years old and below and standing six feet and above.

"It was our trapping defense that worked down the final stretch for us. But I have to credit the heart of my players, who never gave up despite the advantage that our opponents enjoyed," said TNT coach Edito Salacot.

The Junior Phone Pals trailed by as many as 10 points, 52-62, at the 6:19 mark but tied the count at 64 in the final 2:08 via their trapping defense that opened up the fastbreak lanes.

Y4R seized the lead back at 69-67 before Carilla, who was named Most Valuable Player, hit his game-winning bonus shots.

After the Cebu leg, the Six-Footers league goes to Mindanao.

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SPORTS

Sanchez nears Cannes crown

6.5—IM Sanchez; 6.0—IM Paragua, IM Dableo, GM Lexy Ortega (Italy), Dimitar Marholev (Bulgaria); 5.5—GM Igor Miladinovic (Greece), 5.5—GM Milko Popchev (Bulgaria), IM Milan MRDJA (Croatia), IM Benjamin Bujshe (France), IM Patrice Etchegaray (France), IM Alain Villeneuve (France), FM Alain Spielmann (France), FM Benoit Taddai (France), Michiel Luijpen (Netherlands), Vincenzo Menoni (Italy)

FILIPINO International Master Joseph Sanchez lured GM Igor Miladinovic into familiar territory to extract an eighth round victory yesterday and close in on the XV Cannes Open International Chess Championship in Cannes, France.

Baiting former world junior champi-

on Miladinovic, a full-blooded Yugoslavian carrying Greece's colors, to play the Ritzer Rauzer Attack of the Sicilian defense, Sanchez won in 41 moves to raise his total to 6.5 points with just one round left in the 128-man tournament.

"GM Miladinovic and I basically repeated a game between (Nigel) Short and (Dimitry) Gurevich and it worked to my advantage," said the 32-year-old Cebuano winner of the Milano Open in an exclusive long distance interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

GM-candidates Mark Paragua and Asian 3.2a Zonal champion Ronald Dableo also remained in the title hunt.

Paragua drew with Dimitar Marholev of Bulgaria in a marathon 65 moves of Pirc Defense while Dableo

also split the point with GM Lexy Ortega to boost their score to 6 points.

Sanchez will handle white against Ortega in the final round. Paragua and Sanchez, roommates in the Asian Zonal, will have to part ways.

Paragua, the 1998 World Rapid under 14 champion, said he needed to win his game against Marholev in the eighth round and draw against a grandmaster to earn his second GM result.

The Europe campaign of the 19-year-old Paragua is bankrolled by Filway Marketing president Hector Tagaysay, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, Dickies' vice president Dody Arcaya, Albert Cruz, PAF and the PSC. Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino

Zafra, Dolera prevail

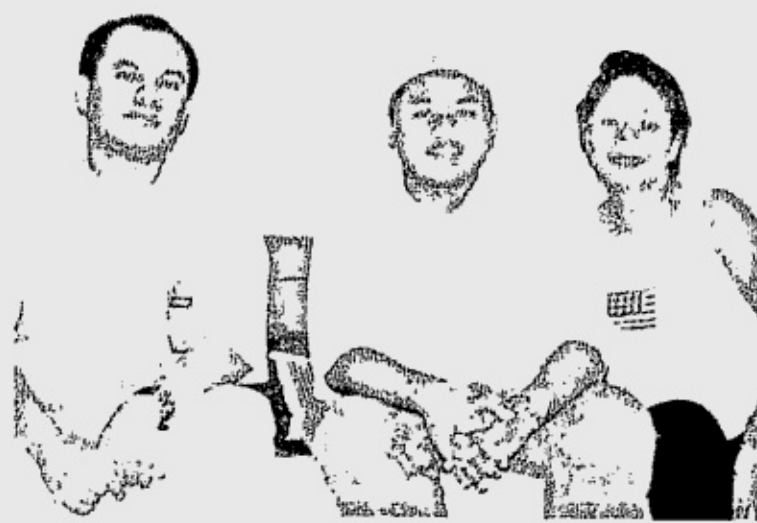
JUN Dolera, Col. Nards Calderon and Darwin Zafra captured division honors in the recent National Capital Region-Philippine Tourism Cup (PTC) qualifying round at the Villamor Golf Club annual club championship recently.

Dolera won over Dong Bobis for the Class A plum, Calderon beat Louie Wong for the Class B title and Zafra prevailed over Elmer Geconcilla in Class C to lead the qualifiers for the NCR Regionals of the PTC.

Also advancing were Jo Barredo and Nancy Tsay who ruled Class A and Class B, respectively, of the ladies division.

Overseeing the tournament sponsored by Philippine Airlines and the Philippine Daily Inquirer were club manager Roberto Sabulase, Col. Victor Dominguez and Edgardo Samonte for the VGC and Asec. Salvador Sarabia Jr., NCR Dir. Reynato Chua, and DGM Jose Dion Diaz of the Philippine Tourism Authority.

The field of 165 VGC members broke the previous high of 144 at the Orchard.



SANCHEZ (left) with Paragua and supporter Ms Lorna Monnecum.

August GDAP fetes Ben Arda

THE ROTARY Club of Diliman RI District 3780 will stage the seventh August Fore! Invitational golf tournament on Friday at the Wack Wack west course to raise funds for its various beneficiaries.

Officials of the Rotary branch in tandem with PDG Melito "Bimbo" Salazar, in whose honor the tourney is being held, have already drawn a number of major and minor sponsorships for the event which will use the two-man scramble format.

Mitsubishi Motors Phil. Inc. is putting up a brand new Lancer while Jieda Phils. and S.C. Kymco Philippines Inc. are staking their top-of-the-line scooters for players who will score aces on designated holes. Green Meadows (Yung Song Industrial Phil. Inc.) and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. are the major sponsors while Performance Forex Corp., Portals, Gleitsmann Security Inks GmbH and Allied Bank are hole sponsors.

Funds generated from the 18-hole event will be used for various Rotary projects like the Rotarymics.

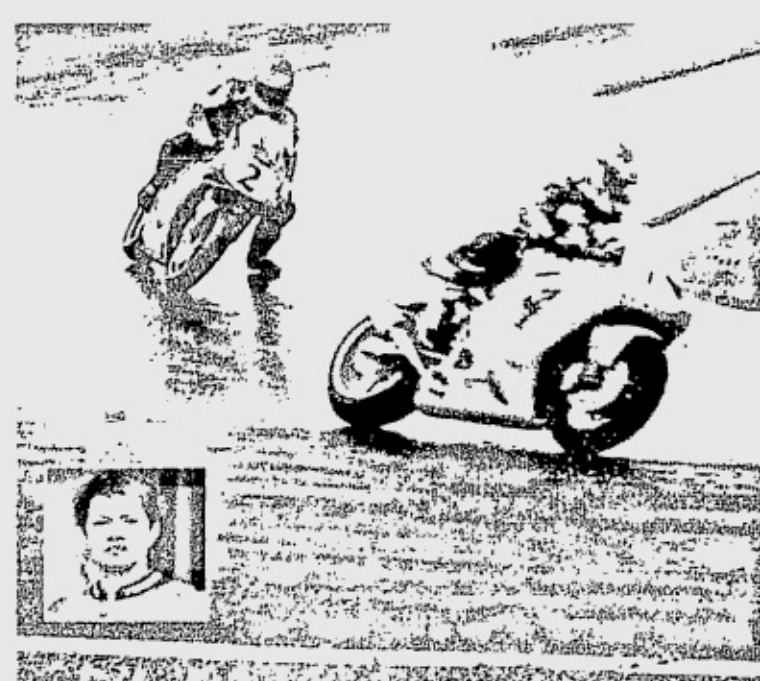
LEGENDARY Bantam Ben Arda will be conferred the Personality of the Year award in a special ceremony during the opening of the 2003 Philippine International Golf Show on Sept. 26 at the SM Megatrade Hall in Mandaluyong City.

The Personality of the Year award is given annually by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP), organizer of the Golf Show, to honor Filipinos who have made significant contributions to the growth and development of golf in the country.

Amalia Montecillo, founder of the national jungolf movement which led to the rise of so many local talents including Frankie Miñoza and Jenny Rosales, was last year's awardee.

Arda became an inspiration to poor golfers to work hard on their game and compete against the best in the world.

GDAP and exhibit manager Fairs&More are in the midst of finalizing the roster of exhibitors for the three-day show. For inquiries, interested parties may call the GDAP at 374-5037/fax 4121696 or Fairs and More at 759-6680/fax 759-6690.



DECISIVE SWERVE

Jolet Jao (inset) of Shell Advance makes a decisive swerve against Ducati-Manila's Toti Alberto in the 2003 Shell Advance Superbike Series of the 2003 Casino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Borja, Ochoa top race

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jeff Jan "JJ" Borja and actor Dominic Ochoa shared the limelight in the initial staging of the TRS-Ford Lynx Cup recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Borja, a 24-year-old Speedcash Lending manager, held the pole throughout and wrapped up the first race in 18:22.852 to check in 2.587 seconds ahead of runner-up Simon Gemayal.

Ochoa finished third, clocking 18:31.688, while Edgar Quesada and female driver Pia Boren wound up fourth and fifth.

The drivers turned even more daring in Race 2 despite the afternoon showers.

Ochoa squeezed his way in front of the green signal and held his post from thereon. Borja tried to chase Ochoa, hitting a fast lap time of 1:47.100 on the sixth lap to forge an exciting battle down the stretch.

But Borja's efforts fell short as Ochoa prevailed in the photo finish by just 0.867 of a second.

Quesada registered 18:38.246 to claim third place while Boren and Matthew "DJ Matt" Yngson followed fourth and fifth, respectively.

GOLF: Bulck Open; 11:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch a replay of the final round of this golf extravaganza.

TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Classic; 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Rewind and witness the semifinals and finals of this ATP event in Washington DC.

Montreal Masters; 11 p.m.; Star Sports—The action begins north of the border.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix, Race Day; 3 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Shift back to reverse to see the thrills and spills from the track in

Hockenheim, Germany.

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 7 p.m.; ESPN—It's an all-

Asian duel as Efen "Bata" Reyes takes on Akikumo Toshikawa.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Pre-Season—Jets vs Buccaneers; 12 noon; ESPN—Defending NFL champion Tampa Bay meets New York in a pre-season special in Japan.

ICE SKATING: 2003 State Farm Figure Skating Championships; 9:30 a.m. (r); ESPN—Men's and Ladies Short Programs are featured from Dallas

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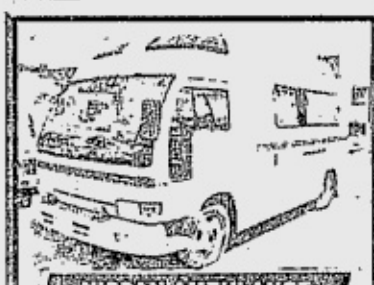
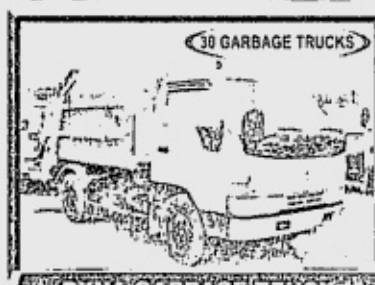
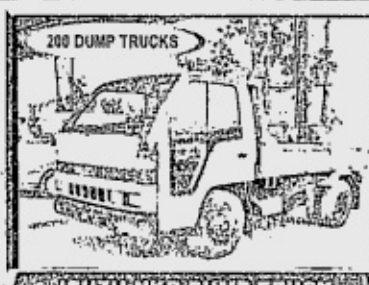
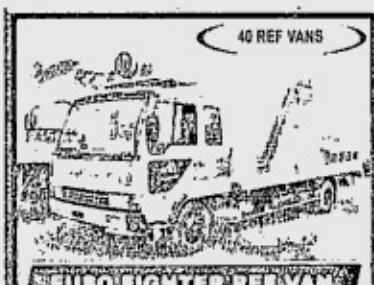
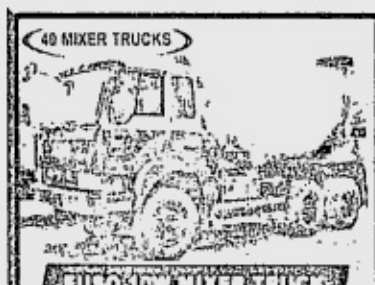
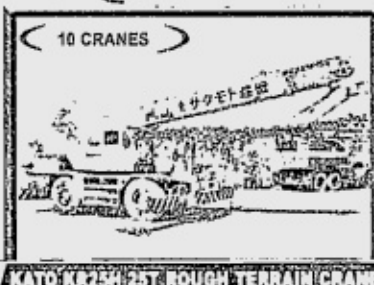
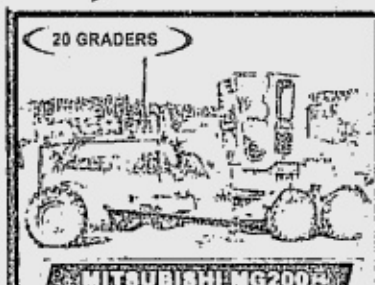
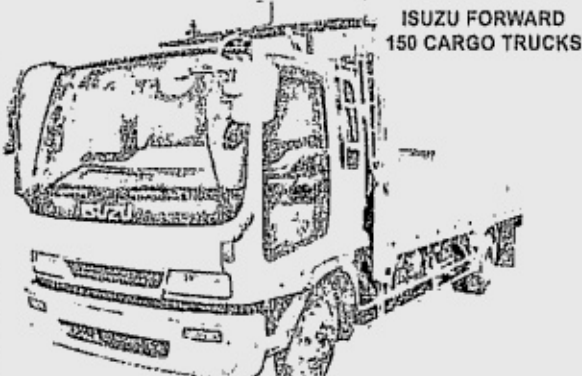
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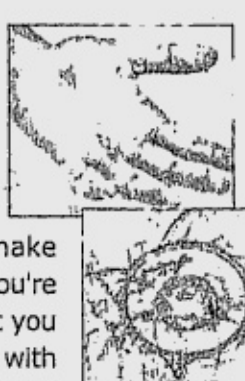


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BUSINESS

Gov't debt balloons by 14.7% to P2.96T

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL government's outstanding debt rose by 14.7 percent or P379 billion in May to P2.96 tril-

lion from P2.58 trillion a year ago as the Macapagal administration continued to borrow heavily to pay maturing obligations.

Relating this level of debt to

population, each of the 82 million Filipinos accounted for a burden of about P36,000 outside of any personal obligations. The debt stock excluded P633.57 billion in

contingent liabilities of the government.

Month-on-month, the increase in the public debt was a little less than one percent or by P27 billion

from P2.932 trillion in April.

Domestic borrowings of P1.52 trillion were 12.8 percent or P173 billion more than the previous year's but was down P2 billion

from a month ago as the treasury bills and bonds the government sold were just enough to settle maturing debt notes.

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Gov't debt . . .

From page B1

By July, however, the size of the local debt would substantially increase to reflect the P74.3 billion worth of retail treasury bonds sold last month. During the same period, the government went back to the global bond market to sell \$750 million worth of 10-year debt papers.

Offshore obligations as of May, however, continued to accelerate largely due to the declining value of the peso that translated to a higher level of foreign borrowings.

As of May, the national government's external debt stood at P1.43 (\$26.86 billion), up by 16.7 percent or P205 billion from a year ago and by 1.92 percent or P27 billion compared to April.

A weaker currency in May at P53.35 to \$1 against P49.90 the previous year swelled the foreign public debt. In April, the average exchange rate was P52.80 to a dollar.

On top of outstanding obligations, the government also has to worry about the contingent liabilities that have been increasing significantly.

As of May, the total contingent

obligations were 30 percent or P147 billion higher than the P486.24 billion a year ago and 5 percent or P30 billion more than the previous month's P603.49 billion.

Of the amount, P618.26 billion were directly guaranteed by the national government.

Contingent debts are borrowings backed by sovereign guarantees and could become actual liabilities each time state agencies and private sector companies with guaranteed loans fail to pay their obligations.

Of the total contingent debts, P612.62 billion were denominated in foreign currencies and only P20.95 billion were in local currency.

The public debt stock released monthly by the Bureau of Treasury only included the obligations of the national government and would form part of the consolidated outstanding debt of the country that stood close to P5 trillion as of September 2002 based on data from the finance department.

The government borrows from the local and foreign markets yearly to refinance its existing debts and to fund its budget deficit.

THERE'S no such thing as a free lunch. So goes a basic maxim in economics, reminding us that everything has a cost. Every "free" benefit is eventually paid for somehow. Another way of putting it is that for every benefit enjoyed, someone, somewhere is paying the cost. Economics is all about minimizing the costs of the benefits that society as a whole could enjoy, or equivalently, maximizing the benefits that society can enjoy from the limited resources at its disposal. This column is dedicated to a clearer understanding of the costs and benefits from the various alternatives we constantly face, whether as individual consumers, workers or enterprises, or as an entire economy.

THE QUARTERLY economic briefing of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (ACERD) last Wednesday was the best-attended so far since it started two years ago. The standing room crowd was perhaps indicative of people's interest in knowing how the recent military rebellion has affected our economy's prospects, especially since this was the first such briefing in the aftermath of the incident. This general concern was reflected in the way practically every radio or TV announcer covering that short-lived mutiny pointed to the economic damage that those military adventurists had brought upon all of us.

What was the economic cost of that mutiny? Unfortunately for all of us, the damage done is far disproportionate to the briefness of the incident itself. There is strong reason to doubt whether the economic targets we had set for ourselves would still be achievable. The same holds true even for targets individual firms have set for themselves for this calendar year.

Kiss the targets goodbye?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito



Economy-wide, four things will stand out as direct casualties of that mutiny. First, investments both by domestic and overseas investors will slow down, and probably decline outright. This means less jobs will be forthcoming than we had earlier anticipated for the year, at this time when we are already rather hard-pressed to generate enough jobs to match our rapidly expanding labor force. And for every additional jobless worker comes an additional household sunk deeper into poverty. Ultimately, the hardest hit will be these poor families, and not the wealthy Glorietta sloop owners who could easily absorb the loss of a day's foregone revenues.

Second, our perennially lagging tourism sector will fall even farther behind. As if the negative image from our internal peace and order problems and from the regional SARS scare was not enough, the mutineers provided foreign tourists yet another reason to shun our country and bring their business elsewhere. The mutiny provided a stronger deterrent to foreign visitors than all the travel advisories their governments had raised against us. It is certainly not the foreign visitors who were hurt here. It is again the countless workers in the tourism and related industries who would have to forego jobs that these foreign visitors would have supported. Again, it is the poor who would suffer the most.

Third, those mutineers have just made it even more expensive for ourselves to borrow funds from the capital markets—as if the recent sovereign bond ratings downgrades by Standard and Poor and Fitch were not enough. Philippine bonds were promptly dumped by investors on Monday, and the prospect of even higher interest costs for all our foreign borrowings, whether by the government or by private borrowers, has now become real. Metrobank, for one, was reportedly set to proceed with an additional tier-2 capital issue as of the week before the putsch, until the mutineers suddenly pulled the rug from underneath. The same is true with many others who have had to suddenly shelve similar financing plans due to the overnight change in market conditions.

Fourth, and perhaps the most immediate and conspicuous casualty, is the peso itself, now poised to plumb record lows. While this may sound like good news to exporters and the families of OFWs receiving foreign remittances, the pressure of the weakened peso on overall prices will eventually hit us all in our wallets. And when that happens, it is again the poor fixed wage earners who will hurt the most.

The Ateneo Macroeconomic and Forecasting Model (AMFM) was used to simulate the effect of a 10-percent drop in investment, and the result was a 0.9-percent reduction in our economy's output measured in gross domestic product (GDP). With an original AMFM projection of 4-4.5 percent GDP growth for 2003, this means that if the mutiny leads to that much drop in investments, we are more likely to see growth in the range of 3.1-3.6 percent, far below the government's target of 4.2-5.2 percent. The drop in investment spending is not likely to be that drastic (but who really knows?). However, consumption spending will also be subject to downward pressure from the expected uptick in prices due to the depreciated peso, and from the growing consumer uncertainty brought about by the changing economic picture.

Prudence dictates that the government not try to compensate all this with increased government spending. Even with the improving revenue performance, the public fiscal situation remains rather fragile, with close to a third of the government budget again being taken up by debt service. And with the cost of financing the persistently large deficits made even higher by the mutiny, we are all the more constrained from doing government pump-priming effectively.

The quicker we are able to get out of this destabilizing episode, the better for all of us—especially the Filipino poor.

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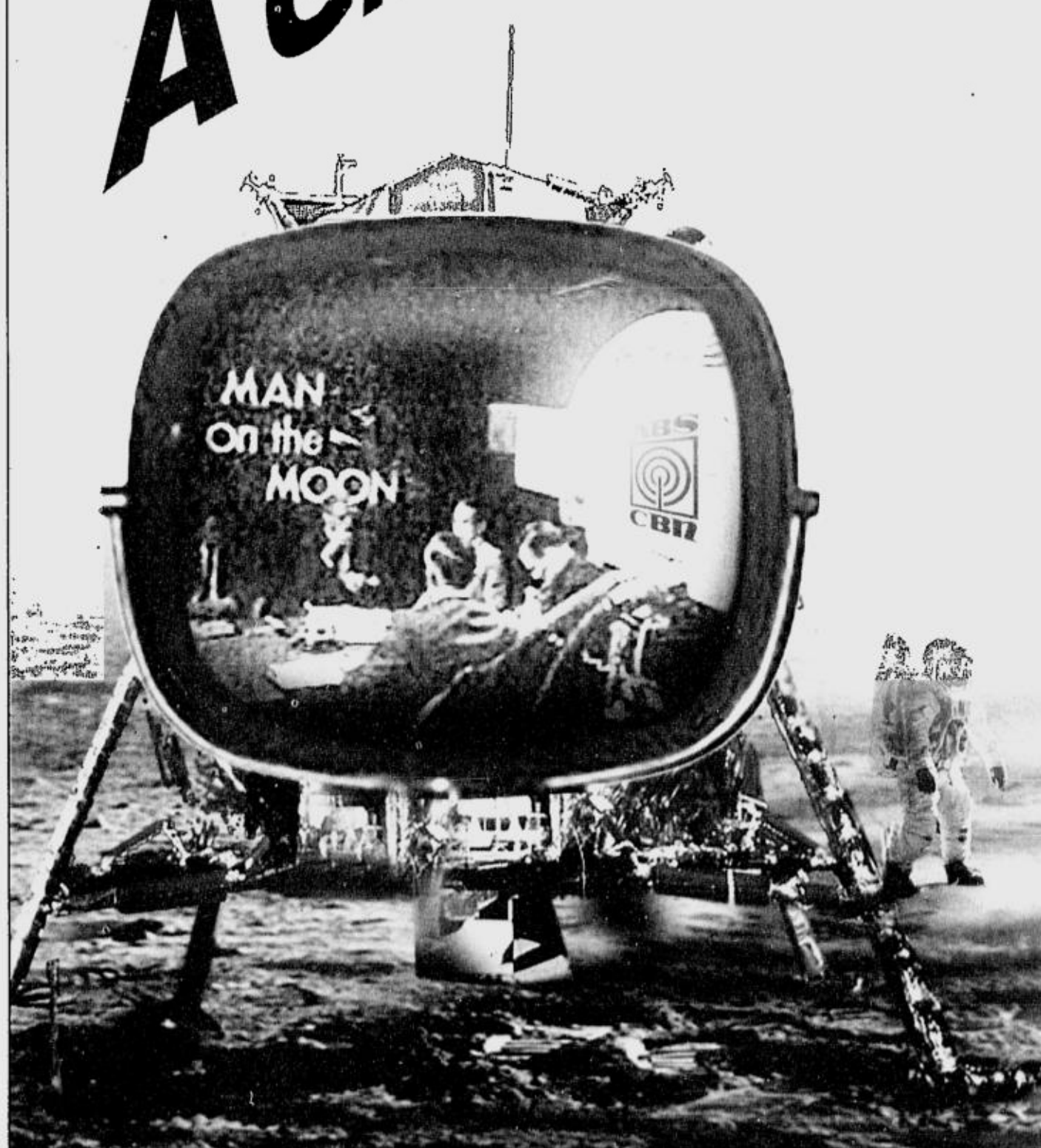
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Financial fissures

A PALACE search committee headed by Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara is still sounding off possible replacements for Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, according to the pro-Malacañang grapevine.

Alcantara was not available for comment although his brother, presidential economic adviser Tomas Alcantara, who was also alleged to be a member of the search committee, denied any knowledge of any Palace move to replace Camacho.

Among the names that were supposed to have been considered include Globe Telecom president and ex-banker Gerardo Ablaza and Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

According to the grapevine, Malacañang is looking for a more forceful, "enforcer" type of finance secretary who would expand domestic revenue collection rather than borrow overseas to plug the government's multibillion-peso revenue loophole.

Even Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who is not part of the inner circles of Malacañang, has already expressed apprehension over the growing foreign borrowings of the GMA administration.

The search for a Camacho replacement has apparently been going on for some time.

In a recent television interview, Ramos-era finance secretary Roberto de Ocampo said he rejected a Malacañang offer to reassume the finance portfolio way back in December.

What is apparently hampering the search is that the GMA administration has barely 11 months to go. Assuming that Malacañang can find a boy scout from the private sector willing to sacrifice his career, the putative new secretary would already use up at least three to six months of that one-year stint for the so-called learning curve.

The reported resignation (Cocktales, July 31, 2003) of Camacho's chief of staff, Inocencio Ferrer, is apparently a prelude to the departure of his boss as well.

Ferrer, an Ilonggo from Negros, is related to the wife of Camacho. An expert in intellectual property laws, Ferrer was invited by Camacho himself to leave the well-connected Villaraza and Angangco law firm.

According to the grapevine, Ferrer is thinking of setting up his own law office rather than go back to The Firm after his DOF stint.

Multibillion-peso mystery

IF CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. wants to clean up his own backyard and catch a proverbial "big fish", all he has to do is follow the paper trail of the Bulletin sequestration case.

For instance, Davide could start by asking which Supreme Court justice "borrowed" the Bulletin case file, causing an over five-year delay before a crucial Supreme Court decision could reach the Sandiganbayan. Dated April 15, 1988, and which became final a month after, the Supreme Court decision was transmitted to the Sandiganbayan only on Dec. 10, 1993.

The Supreme Court decision remanded the case to the anti-graft court to determine the ownership of sequestered Bulletin shares, now worth billions, in the names of Jose Campos, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., and Cesar Zalamea.

What adds to the mystery is that, while the Supreme Court file on the Bulletin could not be located, the Presidential Commission on Good Government went ahead and sold the Campos, Zalamea and Cojuangco shares without prior clearance from the Sandiganbayan.

Davide can start with and probably tap as amicus curiae Abraham Sarmiento, a Supreme Court justice at that time who surfaced after his mandatory retirement on Oct. 7, 1991, to become vice chair of the Bulletin.

Or Davide can simply walk across the Supreme Court hall and ask a fellow justice, Adolf Azcuna. Prior to his appointment, Azcuna was a leading counsel of Bulletin, which retained Azcuna after he stepped down as PCGG chair.

One of the first questions that Davide should ask Azcuna is, how come the Bulletin lawyers never raised a howl as to the five-year disappearance of the Supreme Court case folder?

Asian reversal

BANKER Evelyn Singson has been stopped by the Court of Appeals from assuming the chairmanship or even her election to the board of the Asian Hospital.

The appellate court also dressed down Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court Judge Alberto Lerma for "run (ning) amok" when the judge decided to rule in favor of Singson even before a Singson opponent, ex-Asian Hospital director Leonides Gonzalez, could file his answer to Singson's amended complaint.

Singson sought to annul the election of Gon-

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

zalez in the stormy Oct. 17, 2002, annual stockholders' meeting that resulted in Singson also being ousted from the hospital board.

Gonzalez subsequently resigned, apparently to pave the way for Insular Life CEO Vicente Ayllon to assume the chairmanship of the medical facility.

As a result of the Singson electoral protest, the Muntinlupa RTC declared Singson an elected board member, annulled the elections of Gonzalez and Ayllon, and directed the latter to vacate his seat.

In reversing the Muntinlupa judge, "we find (the) respondent judge to have acted whimsically, arbitrarily, and capriciously, thus, in grave abuse of discretion, for having rendered the questioned decision ... without

COCKTALES/B6

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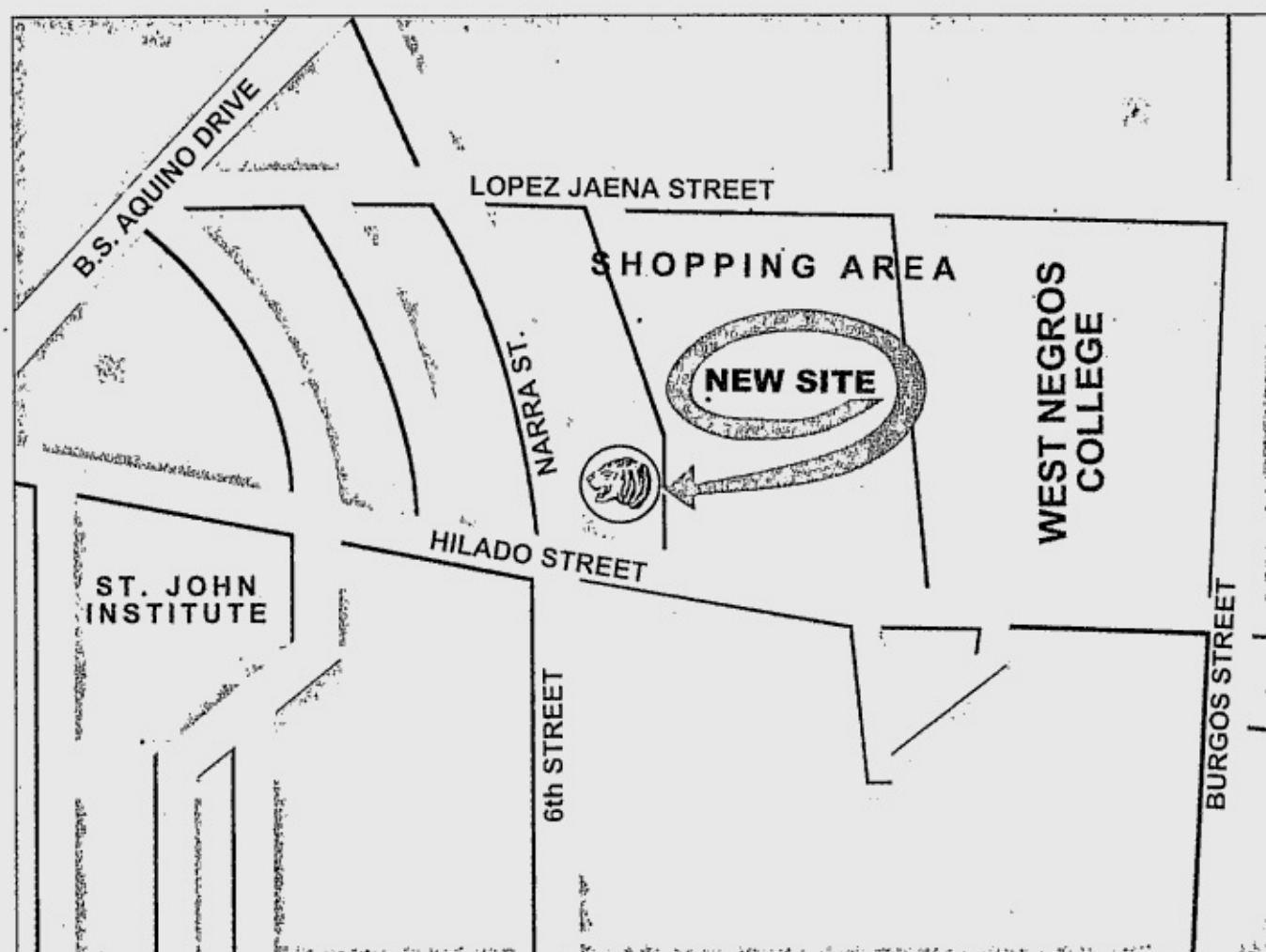
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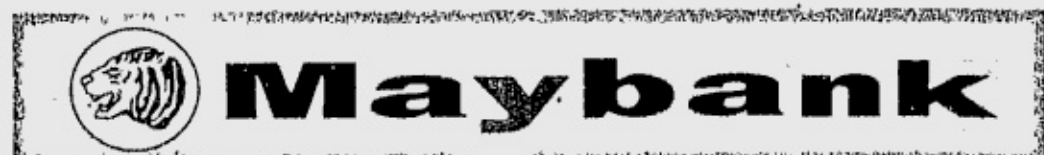
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INVESTMENT HOUSES, FINANCING FIRMS BSP, SEC to impose stiffer capital adequacy rule

STARTING next year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will subject investment houses and financing companies with quasi-banking licenses to a 10-percent risk-based capital adequacy ratio, a capital requirement already being imposed on banks.

A stricter capital ratio will add a layer of protection to investors as it requires investment houses to put up more capital as investment risk increases.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura will request Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista to impose more stringent requirements on invest-

ment houses and other financing firms under her watch to align local banking and financial policies with prudent international standards, according to BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

"The BSP will ask SEC to adopt the risk-based CAR to level the playing field and align local rules with the Basel Committee standard for banks and financial institutions," said Reyes.

Currently, quasi-banks are required to maintain a net worth-to-risk assets ratio of 10 percent.

The risk-based capital ratio defines and weighs the risks corresponding to every banking activi-



BAUTISTA

ty and exposure. Banks are required to meet the 10-percent ratio before they are allowed to



BUENAVENTURA

maximize their lending activities. Reyes said the stricter definition of capital adequacy would be

applied starting Jan. 1 to give institutions with quasi banking license to adjust.

Of the more than 50 investment houses in the country, less than 10 have quasi-banking licenses.

"The extension of the risk-based capital adequacy framework to quasi-banking is consistent with the central bank's desire to strengthen the entire financial system. This will especially improve the level of protection provided to investors," said Buenaventura in a statement.

Several investment houses experienced massive pre-termination of investments in year 2000. This led to the collapse of some fi-

nancial groups and triggered failure of certain banks.

The BSP started to implement the risk-based capital framework on banks in July 2001. This requires banks to back up loans with capital of up to 10 percent of their book value.

The capital provision varies depending on the risk associated to the loan. For instance, loans to local government units or state-owned corporations without sovereign guarantee must be backed by a full 10 percent of their risk-weighting.

Also classified as high risk are loans to real estate developers, foreclosed assets and stock holdings.

RP taps Russian oil suppliers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OFFICIALS of Russian oil companies are expected to visit the country to check out possible investments in oil storage facilities that will receive oil shipments from Russian, an energy official said.

Energy Undersecretary JV Emmanuel de Dios said in an interview that the Department of Energy was coordinating with the Russian oil companies on the schedule and details of the visit.

"We want them to make an ocular inspection of the existing oil storage facilities in Nonoc Island off Surigao del Norte, which they can use strategically (in marketing their products)," De Dios said.

The official explained that Nonoc Island could be the Russian's—or any

other interested investor's—base in serving the markets in Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao or even the entire South.

He said the Russian companies were the same ones visited by a Philippine mission to Russia, which included Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., in October last year.

These oil firms included Sakhalin Energy, Yukos Oil Corp., OAO Sibneft and OAO Rosneft.

"We hope that further (oil) trade with the Russian companies could be realized especially now that we are expecting the first shipment of oil from Sakhalin."

Last week, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi told the INQUIRER that Shell was expecting a cargo of 700,000 barrels of crude from Sakhalin

Island in the Russian Far East, which is also just 40 km off northern Japan.

Kanapi said the cargo was a spot purchase made amid uncertainties in the industry during the US-Iraq conflict earlier this year.

"We expect the shipment to arrive within a month," Kanapi said.

The oil executive explained that Shell's refinery in Batangas was configured to process crude from Dubai, but that there were no major adjustments necessary to process Sakhalin crude.

The industry describes Dubai crude as between light and medium, while Sakhalin crude is regarded as "light sweet."

"The lighter the crude, the more 'white products' (such as gasoline, diesel, kerosene) can be produced," Kanapi said.



PBSP BAGS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), the largest corporate-led social development foundation in the country, received this year's Public Service Award from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). Rev. Bienvenido Nebres, president of the Ateneo, confers the award during a special academic convocation to Manuel Pangilinan, PBSP chair (2nd from right). With him are Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, PBSP president and Pedro Roxas, PBSP trustee.

SEC to tighten disclosure policy

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is considering imposing a new rule to prevent a repeat of the disclosure fiasco involving taipan John Gokongwei's failed attempt to take over Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. last year.

The SEC has drawn up a proposed rule requiring an owner of more than 5 percent of the voting rights of a listed company, who holds material information that may affect the firm, to disclose such information within a prescribed period.

This was among the proposed amendments to the implementing

rules and regulations of the Securities Regulations Code.

Failure to provide the required information shall subject the stockholder to sanctions.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista admitted that the proposed rule was drawn up in reaction to the commission's experience last year with Gokongwei bid to buy into PLDT.

In June last year, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Gokongwei signed a memorandum of agreement to form a \$925-million joint venture that would hold First Pacific's PLDT stake and a 50.4-percent interest in Bonifacio Land Corp.

The SEC had wanted to penalize JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, for not disclosing its participation in the deal.

Gokongwei, however, had said he was the party to the deal and not JG Summit Holdings although it was widely believed that the holding company would be a vehicle for the family's investment in the planned joint venture, which later failed.

For its part, the SEC could not require Gokongwei to disclose more information on the transaction since the Commission had no legal basis to make such a directive.

Beatrice: Making globalization a two-way street

LOIDA Nicolas Lewis is, far and away, the most successful Filipino in corporate America. She is the chair and chief executive officer of TLC Beatrice International Holdings Inc. The company was set up by her late husband, Reginald F. Lewis, the first African American to create a billion-dollar business empire. In 1994, a year after her husband passed away, Loida, the first Asian woman who did not study law in the States to have passed the New York State bar exams, took over the company.

Beatrice is an international grocery products company with operations principally in Western Europe. It manufactures and markets ice cream and dessert products, potato chips, snacks and beverages through eight entities and their respective subsidiaries. The company has manufacturing facilities in six countries and sales in over twenty.

Although raised in Manila (St. Theresa's and UP Law), and now based in New York, Loida has clearly not forgotten that her roots are in Sorsogon in the southern tip of the Bicol peninsula. She is poised to modernize one of the most basic businesses in the country—the slaughtering of hogs and marketing of pork.

Many households in Bicol as in other parts of the country, especially in the rural areas, raise pigs in their backyards as a sideline. A *viagero*, or travelling businessman, buys these pigs on the hoof, transports them in his rickety pickup to the local abattoir, or sometimes the all way to Manila, for slaughter. The stall owners at the *palengke* buy the carcasses and sell them retail in traditional cuts.

This method of slaughtering hogs and marketing pork is a model of gross inefficiency. For example, a hog transported overland from Bicol to Manila will lose as much as 10 percent of its weight.

TLC Beatrice Foods Philippines Inc., the local subsidiary, will do away with this quaint and traditional inefficiency. It is putting up in Naga City, my hometown, what amounts to a world-class wholesale butcher shop, on a scale never before seen in this country. The plant is right beside the city abattoir. For the city's needs, the abattoir operates only a few hours a day. In the off hours, Beatrice will use the abattoir to slaughter as many as 250 hogs a day. This joint venture of sorts between a local government unit and an American company is the first in the country. The use of the

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



abattoir is maximized resulting in additional direct income to the city.

Value is added to the carcasses by processing them in the chiller room into the various cuts, then frozen. If you are a meat processor, you need not buy carcasses anymore. Beatrice will sell you just the cuts and the quantities you need. If your business is curing bacon, you can get all the pork bellies, or liempo, you can handle from Beatrice. If you cure ham, Beatrice will sell you all the legs you want. If a restaurant chain needs baby racks or tenderloin, it can order them at Beatrice by the ton.

Beatrice has no plans of raising its own hogs. It will completely rely on the small rural raisers in the region. Assured by Beatrice of a steady market at profitable prices, the raisers are expected to improve and expand their backyard piggeries—and thereby make more money.

Beatrice will do no cooking or curing. It will market, on a wholesale basis, its products to the pork processors, supermarkets and groceries in Metro Manila and elsewhere, guaranteeing them a steady supply of constantly high quality pork.

Beatrice stands between the small hog raisers on one side and the meat processors and big retailers on the other. Everybody profits, from the rural folk all the way to the big city consumer.

The Naga City plant is just a foothold. In the works (coup or no coup) is a much bigger plant on a four-hectare lot in the Phividec area in Cagayan de Oro City. The plant is designed to export pork cuts into the United States. In the not too far horizon are plans to expand to beef and chicken. The American industry may eventually have to run to the WTO in Geneva for tariff protection. That will be the day.

If anybody is going to make Philippine pork competitive in the American market—and make globalization a two-way street, at least for pork—it will be the lady from Sorsogon, Loida Nicolas Lewis.

BPI junks regional expansion plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of the Philippine Islands said it would refocus its thrust on overseas Filipino workers and their families as it shelved plans to expand in the region.

BPI senior executive vice president Aurelio Montinola III said that talks to acquire a stake in an Indonesian bank had bogged down.

"Both sides mutually agreed to defer the talks. We'll have to wait and see when discussions (will resume). We have very good relationships with people we discuss with," Montinola said.

"Right now we are refocusing on the domestic side, on the OFW side," he added.

The Ayala-controlled bank aimed to become "the best distributor of remittances" once they reached the Philippines, he explained.

Montinola said the bank would designate at least 50 of its branches to specialize in catering to the special needs of OFWs and their families.

Montinola said the bank was optimistic that it could exceed last year's P5.2 billion profit this year as demand for its consumer products has been growing.

In a statement, BPI noted that "all indications show that BPI would equal or even surpass its earnings last year."

Montinola disclosed that the bank was able to sell more than P1 billion of real and other properties owned and acquired.

He also said that BPI, through its consumer lending arm, BPI Family Savings Bank, posted a 20-percent increase in auto loan releases in the first half of this year and a 10 percent hike in housing loan releases.

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Residential property market slump seen over

By Doris C. Dumlaog

AFTER six years of downturn, the Philippine property sector has finally picked up and is drawing strength to climb back to the pre-Asian crisis peak, a new research report by upscale developer Megaworld Corp. said.

"From all indications, the downturn in the residential market is over. The market is moving up again. I cannot tell you how fast it will recover, but definitely, we are back on an up-cycle again," Megaworld chair and president Andrew Tan said, citing the latest report from his company's research department.

In a presentation during Megaworld's recent stockholders' meeting, he noted that the residential property sector had been on a recovery mode for the last four months based on rising volume of

property sales and land prices.

Tan admitted that the office sector was still sluggish owing to the oversupply of office space in the metropolis. However, he said there were still pockets of opportunities in this sector even as total recovery was not likely until 2006.

Megaworld, in the early 1990s, similarly predicted an upturn in the sector, which indeed happened in 1994, 1995 and 1996, Tan noted.

"When we talk of an upturn for the residential property market, we are talking about a significant increase in the level of activity or transactions both in the primary and secondary market," Tan said.

After talking to a number of brokers, Tan noted that the volume of property transactions in the secondary market had increased by more than 20 percent compared with last year, and the number of licenses issued to sell in the the pri-

mary market has gone up.

"If this trend continues, by 2005 or 2006, you will see the same volume of property transactions that you saw at the height of the property boom in 1996," Tan said.

Prices of prime residential properties have likewise moved up in recent months, a trend which Tan said would continue.

He projected that residential subdivision land prices in Metro Manila would increase by 9 to 11 percent in the next 12 months.

Tan explained the slowdown in interest rates since 2000 to a 25-year low was also likely to stay around for some time, thus greatly benefiting the property developers as well as homebuyers.

Two other factors were cited by Tan as key drivers in the recovery of

the residential property segment. **RESIDENTIAL/B6**

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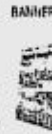
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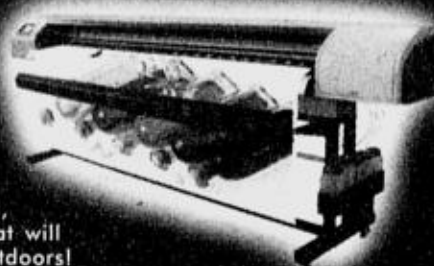


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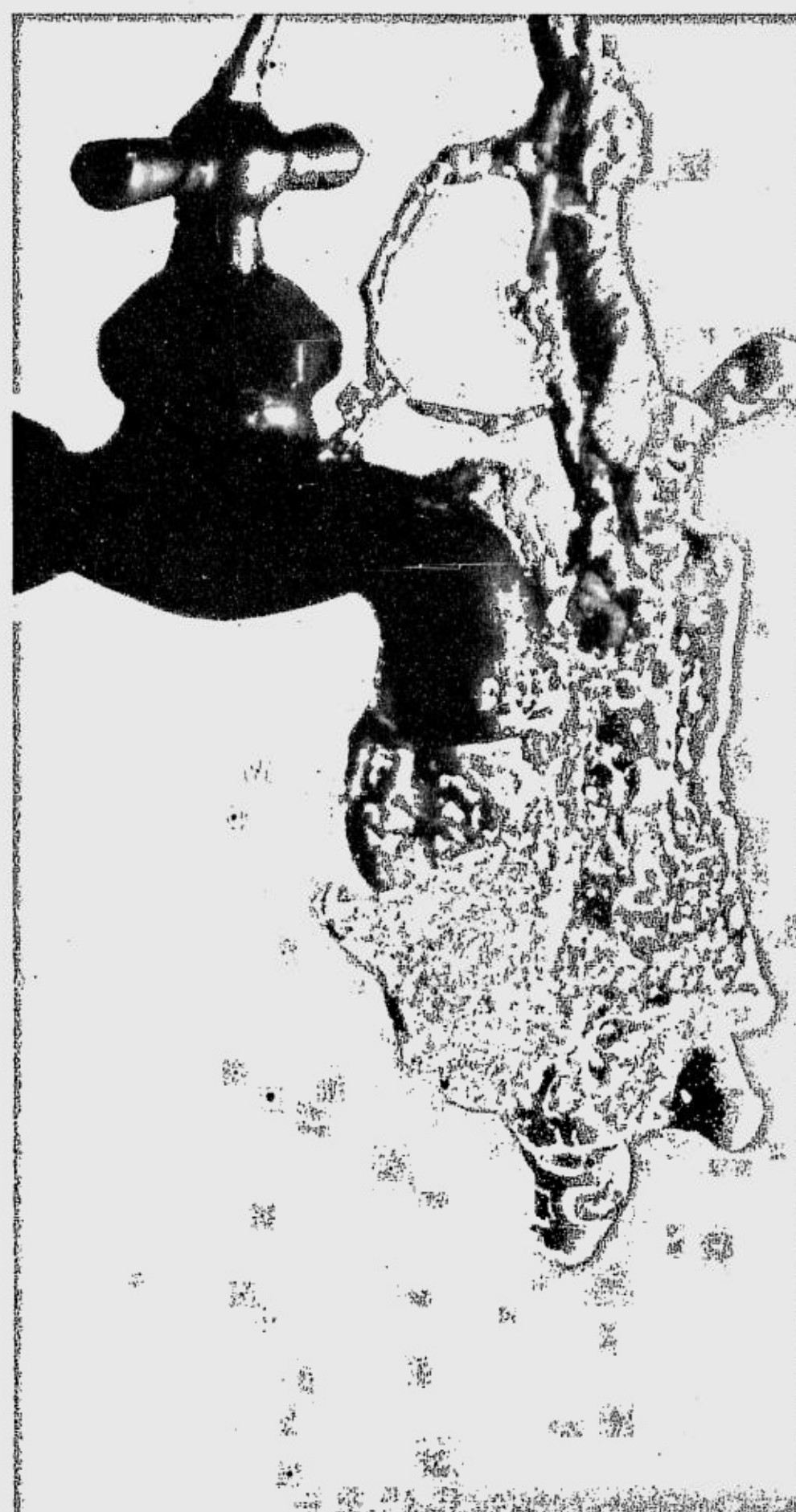
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Firm sizzles on 'backdoor' listing talk

By Doris C. Dumlaog

DORMANT Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc., recently renamed ISM Communications Corp., is seeking to migrate from mining to the mass media business.

Market talk was that ISM, whose shares sizzled in the stock market in recent days, would be used as the backdoor listing vehicle for Associated Broadcasting Corp. (ABC-5), a company which businessman Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco is negotiating to acquire.

ISM told the Philippine Stock Exchange its shareholders approved last week certain board resolutions to study the feasibility

of the shift to mass media.

The shareholders also approved an option to issue Philippine Depositary Receipts to allow the future entry of foreign investors as the Philippine Constitution restricts foreign ownership in mass media and public utilities.

The same scheme was used by ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to cope with foreign ownership restrictions.

Depository receipts are negotiable certificates held in a bank representing a specific number of shares of a stock traded on an exchange of another country. These instruments make it easier for individuals to invest in foreign

companies, due to the widespread availability of price information, lower transaction costs, and timely dividend distributions.

Although the disclosure did not elaborate on the plan to shift to mass media, the speculation was that it would be Cojuangco infusing ABC-5 into ISM.

On Friday, ISM was among the top gainers in the stock market, with its share price rising by more than 20 percent to 4.2 centavos from the previous day's close.

As early as 2001, ISM chair Roberto Ongpin confirmed that Cojuangco was among the groups which had offered to help the company shift to the information

communication technology business. Back then, the rumor was that ISM might be used as a backdoor listing vehicle for Cojuangco's satellite TV business.

However, sources from the Cojuangco camp said the negotiations to acquire ABC-5 were still ongoing. They also flatly denied plans to infuse ABC-5 into ISM as any takeover of the broadcasting firm would depend on the outcome of the due-diligence audit.

ISM was a cash-strapped mining firm owned by the Ortigas family, which sold a 40-percent stake to Ongpin's group which, in turn, offered to infuse new businesses into the company.

Sluggish trading seen this week

ANOTHER week of sluggish trading awaits the local stock market on persistent rumors of yet another military uprising, dealers said.

Although the sell-offs in the stock market last week following a failed coup attempt over the weekend was not as bad as expected by many, the peso was more badly hit. As it slid back to the 55 level or near historical lows, jitters spilled over to the stock market.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell by 3.78 percent from a week ago to close at a month-low of 1,235.30 on Friday.

"We haven't seen the end of it. The adverse

effect on the market will linger for sometime so I think the market will still correct," said Jomas Lacson, an analyst with TeamResearch.

Lacson noted that during the coup attempts against then President Aquino in the late 1980s, rumors of follow-up destabilization initiatives likewise persisted for the next two to three months.

"But not all investors are selling out. There are still some stocks that are worth buying," he said.

Cocktales...

From page B3

the benefit of the mandatory pre-trial," said Associate Justice Oswaldo Agcaoili.

The appellate court also granted a petition for certiorari of the Ayllon/Gonzalez group, which effectively secures their hold over the disputed hospital even while the electoral dispute drags in court.

Singson and other minority shareholders, meanwhile, have attained a victory of sorts after the Securities and Exchange Commission granted their petition to inspect the books of the hospital.

Because of the Oakwood crisis, the inspection has been reset for tomorrow morning.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PALACE backroom boys are celebrating the results of a new SWS survey, taken before the Oakwood mutiny, supposedly showing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as leading the pack of likely 2004 presidential candidates.

The survey is scheduled for release today. (Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 1, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.75	19	80,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45	45	174,300
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	35.5	33	34	867,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	149,900
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	67,500
Rural Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	5,024,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	24	23.5	23.75	106,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	230,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1600	1590	1600	440
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	91,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1135	1150	1135	1150	1,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	13,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	2,450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	665	660	665	33,330
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.055	0.0575	26,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.044	0.035	0.042	86,700,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	2,860,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	520	525	350,220
Investment Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	180,000
Vivant Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	58,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	632,100
Manila Electric Co. B	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	335,000
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	3,193,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,021,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	8,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	401,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	53	52.5	53	38,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	115,100
Vitacorp Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	3,504,000
Abotiz Equities Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	57,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.04	0.037	0.04	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Alcorn Golf Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	135,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.63	0.64	8,200,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,010,000
Ever-Goleco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.25	15.25	438,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	230,000
Ionics Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.4	1.48	172,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	70,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,050,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	2,070,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.18	0.18	510,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.42	0.36	0.38	2,060,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	33,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	138,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.56	550,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	10,000
Lalure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	300,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	72,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	18,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,262,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.235	2,940,000
Fluorocarb Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,086,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.205	1,880,000
Flt-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.23	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	4,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	1,229,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Mineral Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	25,000,000
Mineral Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	22,000,000
Phlex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	76,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	8,000,000
Pacific	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,000,000
Sinophill Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.889442	1.000000	54.734000
Japan	Yen	0.007380	0.008297	0.454100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433156	1.611300	88.192900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114046	0.128222	7.018100
Switzerland	Franc	0.649655	0.730407	39.978100
Canada	Dollar	0.633641	0.712403	38.992700
Singapore	Dollar	0.505365	0.568182	31.098900
Australia	Dollar	0.575653	0.647207	35.424200
Bahrain	Dinar	2.359326	2.652590	145.186900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237172	0.266652	14.594900
Brunei	Dollar	0.503933	0.566572	31.010800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00015	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021193	0.023827	1.304100
UAE	Dirham	0.242190	0.272284	14.903700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.124300	61.537400
Argentina	Peso	0.030551	0.343643	18.809000
Brazil	Real	0.300183	0.337496	18.472500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134581	0.151309	8.217700
India	Rupiah	0.019315	0.021716	1.188600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234095	0.263193	14.056500
Mexico	New Peso	0.083993	0.094433	5.168700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514813	0.578804	31.680300
Norway	Kroner	0.122134	0.137315	7.515800
Pakistan	Rupiah	0.015455	0.017376	0.951100
South Africa	Rand	0.121178	0.136240	7.457000
Korea	Won	0.000753	0.000847	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.108370	0.121840	6.668800
Syria	Pound	0.021178	0.023810	1.303200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025924	0.029146	1.595300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000558	0.000627	0.034300

From page B5

"In the years following the Asian financial crisis, the residential market has emerged stronger in terms of fundamentals. Today, the demand for residential property is driven by end-users rather than speculators," Tan stressed. "In other words, real buyer confidence rather than speculative demand has fueled the growth of the residential property market."

The fourth driver, Tan said, was that Filipinos continued to look at real estate as the safest form of investment. "Also, for most Filipinos, home ownership remains a top priority," he said. Meanwhile, Tan said the office property sector was still being weighed down by about 13 to 29 percent of space oversupply, equivalent to about 500,000 square meters of idle office space.

"But we see one bright spot in the landscape and that is business process outsourcing or what we call BPO," he said.

BPO services include customer contact centers comprising call centers, email, chat, web collaboration, shared financial services, software development outsourcing, animation and medical transcription.

Today, he said there were 37 call centers in the country, a third of which were in Megaworld's own Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis. Overall, he said these call centers accounted for 17,000 seats that took up about 85,000 square meters.

"It is estimated that the industry will grow by 100 percent every year. If this happens, it will need as much as 300,000 to 400,000 square meters of workspace by 2005 to 2006," Tan said.

"This means that by 2006, all the excess office space will have been absorbed by the call center industry alone, without taking into account the increased demand from other industries and businesses that will also undergo their own expansion," Tan said.

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CELEBRITY	250K FOREST HILLS "F"
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CELEBRITY	250K FOREST HILLS

RP to oppose WTO investment framework

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES is not bent on supporting moves in the World Trade Organization to come up with a common multilateral framework for investments, which aims to fully open member-countries to foreign businesses.

The formulation of the multilateral framework is expected to be pushed by proponent countries—such as members of the European Union and Japan—in the coming 5th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in September to be held in Cancun, Mexico.

Thomas Aquino, undersecretary for international trade of the Department of Trade and Industry, said the country was not yet prepared to fully open its doors to all businesses that would consider locating in the Philippines. With the framework, WTO member-countries would have to abide by common guidelines on the entry of foreign investors while individual policies would have to be removed.

The proposal by the European Union and Japan is being supported by Canada, Switzerland, China, Taiwan, Korea and Latin American countries, among others. India, Egypt and Cuba are opposing the move to-

gether with the Philippines.

Aquino, during a consultation with industry groups last Thursday, said the government was still in doubt whether a common framework for investment was necessary.

"Our position in general is that we find the pace of 'multilateralization,' which is gaining momentum in the WTO, just too fast for the country. And one of the issues raised is whether we really need a multilateral framework in the WTO," Aquino said.

While developed countries were pushing for further liberalization, Aquino admitted that there were still a number of concerns from developing countries that have yet to be addressed in the WTO. The Philippines, in particular, has been complaining about the subsidies granted by the European Union to its farmers and exporters.

"Even on the assumption that the EU totally removes subsidies to its farmers and exporters, the average European farmer is still much competitive than the typical Asian farmer who still has to get the technology, market access and experience," said Aquino.

BSP may tap dollar loans to boost GIR, pay debt

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to tap dollar loans to settle some \$200 million in obligations that will fall due in September. The planned borrowings are also expected to boost a declining level of external reserves amid the government's reluctance to complete the refinancing of offshore debts maturing this year.

A senior monetary official said a foreign loan was "being strongly considered" to help boost the level of the gross international reserves as the peso showed signs of volatility.

The BSP official declined to say how much borrowing was being considered but other sources said that based on its requirements, the central bank might avail itself of \$500 million to \$750 million in loans maturing in five years or more.

A weak GIR could make the peso vulnerable to speculative attacks as it sends the market the signal that the central bank did not have enough

dollars to defend the local currency.

As of June, the GIR was only at \$15.8 billion. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura warned that if the government would not cooperate and borrow dollar loans to pay maturing dollar debts, the level could fall below \$15 billion.

The government has reduced by \$500 million its offshore borrowing plan for the rest of the year to only \$400 million from \$900 million after it raised P74.3 billion from the sale of retail bonds.

The government said it would use part of the retail bond proceeds to pay maturing dollar debts, a move that Buenaventura said would strain the GIR.

"If we are presented a good deal, we might borrow again. But there are no definite plans yet. We have to decide first if we would indeed borrow and how much," said BSP Deputy Governor Amanda Tetangco Jr.

The central bank raised \$585 million through a five-year loan facility syndicated by 22 banks in March. Of

the total, \$500 million was used to pay a maturing obligation in April and the rest will be used to settle the September maturity.

The last time the BSP raised funds to boost the GIR and the balance-of-payments was in late 2001 and early 2002 when it sold a total of \$800 million worth of four-year euro bonds.

Sources said the central bank periodically engages in confidential gold-backed borrowings to beef up the dollar reserves.

The central bank and the national government have a tacit agreement that one would favor loans and the other would go for bond floats so they would not crowd out each other's market.

Sources said the BSP was banking on the positive response to its March borrowing to launch another successful loan facility within the second half.

In March, 22 American, European, Asian and Filipino lenders pooled the funds for the BSP at a spread of 2.33 percentage points over the US London Interbank Offered Rate.

Stronger cell phone market seen

By Abigail L. Ho

BUILDING on the momentum of the first half, Globe Telecom Inc. sees wireless subscriber take-up, particularly in the youth and provincial markets, increasing in the next several months.

"The rate at which the market grew in the first half could be sustained boosted by growth in the youth market and increased demand in areas outside Metro Manila," Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said.

In the first six months of the year, Globe saw its subscriber base expand 35 percent to 7.3 million from 5.4 million in the same period last year.

Rival Smart Communications Inc. ended the first semester with 10.3 million subscribers, including the global system for mobile communications (GSM) subscribers of sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.

As of end-June, the country's mobile phone industry had a total subscriber base of about 18 million, representing a wireless penetration rate of around 22 percent of the population.

Both Globe and Smart had revised earlier penetration rate projections in light of recent developments in the industry.

Globe had earlier projected wireless penetration rate hitting 25 percent by 2005. Within the second quarter, the company changed its projection, jacking it up by five percentage points to 30 percent by 2005.

Despite analysts' projections of a slowdown in cellular subscriber take-up this year because of market saturation, Ablaza said actual numbers eroded analysts' expectations.

"When historically the second quarter is a slow period, the wireless industry has posted strong take-up, building from the momentum of the first quarter," he said.

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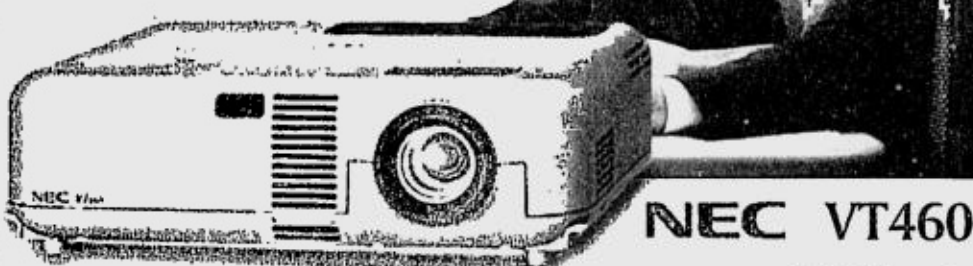
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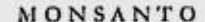
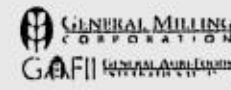
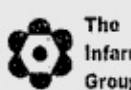
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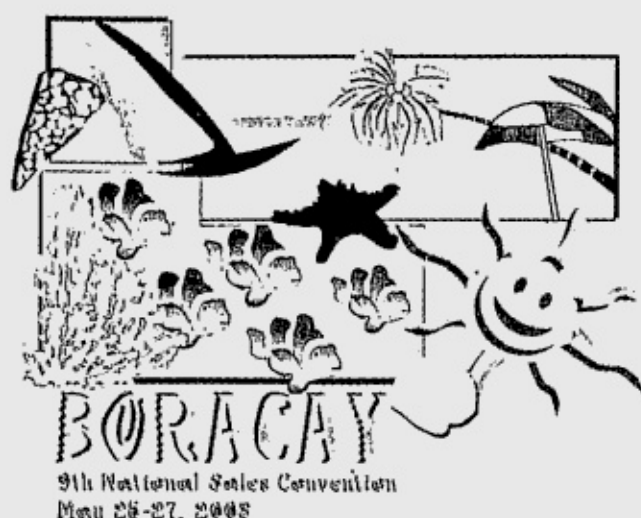


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Central Visayas



5th Runner-Up
John Kirby A. Casal
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6th Runner-Up
Jennifer B. Rebenque
Southern Luzon



7th Runner-Up
Sandi A. Pranza
Western Mindanao



8th Runner-Up
Scarlet lace Y. Almirante
Northern Mindanao

Business Group Manager (BGM)



Top BGM
Reynaldo V. Gimeno
Southern Luzon



1st Runner-Up
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Southern Mindanao



2nd Runner-Up
Rodrigo V. Ramirez
Metro Manila

Business District Managers (BDM)



Top BDM
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Southern Luzon



1st Runner-Up
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Southern Mindanao



2nd Runner-Up
Marlinda L. Ramirez
Metro Manila

Regional Business Operations Heads (RBOH)



Top RBOH
Felino Briones
Western Mindanao



1st Runner-Up
Teodorica T. Roxas
Metro Manila



2nd Runner-Up
Estrella C. Monarca
Western Mindanao

Territorial Business Operations Heads (TBOH)



Top TBOH
Aniana B. Briones
Western Mindanao



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Evelyn Marie G. Teves
Northern Mindanao



2nd Runner-Up
Carlyn E. Aleonar
Central Visayas

Millionaire's Club

Business Consultant



Delia V. Gimeno
Southern Luzon



Rebecca V. Velasco
Western Mindanao



Jennifer B. Rebenque
Southern Luzon

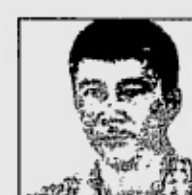


Sandi A. Pranza
Western Mindanao

Regional Business Operations Head



Teodorica T. Roxas
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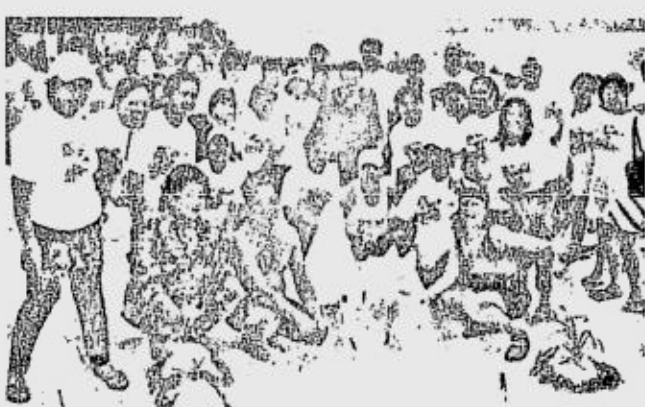
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PETPLANS storms Boracay!

PETPlans 2003 National Sales Convention



Not even the full fury of the southwest monsoon could not prevent over 300 PETPlans Business Partners from converging on the island paradise of Boracay last May.

The event: PETPlans' 9th National Sales Convention — the annual gathering of the company's elite Business Partners — where the best of the best are feted, pampered and honored as a reward for their sterling performance last year. So despite near or outright flight cancellations, intermittent rains and howling winds, the show did go on.

Able hosted by Bimbo Cerrudo and Pinky Webb, with a hilarious guest performance by "Ate Glow," the Awards Night once again honored the company's top Business Partners. Taking home the prestigious Lorenzo M. Tañada award were Western Mindanao's Rebecca Velasco, Aniana Briones and Felino Briones, Sr., and Southern Luzon's Dario Velasco and Reynaldo Jimeno.

Equally exciting was the Fellowship Night. Emceed by top-notch impersonators Anton and Vice, the Fellowship Night saw PETPlans Business Partners letting their hair down and partying till way past

midnight. Amidst all the merry-making, valuable door prizes were awarded — culminating in the raffle of a brand new Mitsubishi Adventure, won by a Business Partner from nearby Iloilo.

All in all, PETPlans 2003 NSC was a grand, enjoyable and memorable affair. This early, PETPlans Business Partners are already looking forward to Baguio and Hong Kong.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Tackling free market economy, global competitiveness

17 LOCAL chambers of commerce in Metro Manila will tackle free market economy and global competitiveness issues at the 11th Metro Manila Business Conference to be participated in by 500 top business leaders in commerce and industry on Aug. 22 and 23 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Governor Angelito Colona, south sector chair of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines said that invited to address the forum are Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Manuel Pangilinan, CEO of PLDT, MMDA chair

Bayani Fernando, Jesus Tanchanco and other government business dignitaries.

In support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's vision of a strong Philippine Republic, the business dialogues will focus on the boon or bane of globalization, challenges and opportunities in franchising, labor factor in business success, success stories and techniques in marketing, and bold ventures into the big league.

No less than the CEOs of the major producers and marketers such as Bench, Splash and the Philippine

Franchise Association will guide the business attendees through the challenging world of global competitiveness.

To underscore the role of excellence in surviving the free market economy and globalization, the Paranaque Chamber of Commerce will also bestow the Salambao Awards for exemplary endeavors of big, small and medium-scale industries of Paranaque that have made a mark worthy of emulation in product development, systems, production and marketing excellence.



GENERIC DRUG MAKER SIGNS UP WITH METROBANK

GX International Inc., a pharmaceutical company and maker of generic medicines, recently signed up with Metrobank, the country's largest bank, for the management of its retirement funds. Shown are signatories (seated, from left) Metrobank executive vice president Josefina Sulit, GXI president Wilfredo C. Orjola, vice

chair/COO Jose P. Cardenas Jr., and executive vice president and GM Roderick Gracia. Also witnessing the event were (standing, from left) Metrobank manager Pollyanna Diokno, GXI's Ma. Carmel Ajero and Lourdes Fajardo, Metrobank Madrigal Business Park-Alabang branch manager Marian Arellano and AVP Josephine Cervero.



GLOBELINES OPENS PAYMENTS, SERVICES CENTER IN SM CITY-CEBU

Globelines, the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom, has opened a Payments and Services Center (GPS) in SM City-Cebu in an effort to serve its customers in a more cost-efficient way. The center accepts payment collection, sales inquiries, initial processing of applications, follow-ups, and complaints related to Globelines as well

as serve as call cards distribution channel. Shown are (from left), Danny Sy, NTC Region 7 director, Gil B. Genio, Globe wireline business group head, Carlos Co, Cebu Chamber of Commerce president, Manny Masangkay, provincial board member, and Ben Daput, Honorary Consul of Denmark.

Business hotel defies tourism slump

A FIRST-class international business hotel in Makati City is making good business despite the tourism slump.

City Garden Hotel Makati has attained this feat through a number of factors that have conspired to work to its advantage, especially during tough times.

"In fact, our hotel gets transfers from other hotels even as we maintain a solid grip on our captive clientele," said general manager Johnny Rios.

"The reasons, perhaps, are the affordable luxury and the kind of service that make City Garden Hotel Makati a businessman's home," Rios added.

Known as Metro Manila's first Internet-ready hotel, City Garden has remained a businessman's hotel whose luxurious facilities are attuned to that purpose, including its rates that come as low as P950+ on a twin-sharing basis.

Aside from Internet-ready rooms, guests can hook up to the Internet anywhere in the hotel, whether in the Le Jardin Restaurant while having breakfast or at the Rooftop Bar & Grill while having dinner and enjoying a magnificent view of the Makati skyline and other parts of the metropolis.

The Rooftop Bar & Grill also has a Roman-inspired swimming pool where the businessman and his family can have fun and combine business with pleasure.

City Garden's other business facilities include flexible meeting rooms for 10 to 120 persons, complete conference/seminar facilities, meeting packages for as low as P9,750+ per day, and a professionally staffed and fully equipped business center with Internet access, fax, and photocopiers, and such services as secretarial assistance, documentation, airline ticket reconfirmation, tours and trans-

port booking, and postal and parcel handling, among others.

Likewise, the Italian-inspired rooms of this 23-floor business hotel have high-speed Internet and fax access ports, IDD/NDD telephone system, safe deposit box, well-stocked minibar, cable TV, and 24-hour room service.

There's also an automated wakeup call system so that businessmen on the go need not ring up the front desk for such service. All other items can be requested from the housekeeping department, including laundry and dry cleaning services.

For rest and recreation, businessmen can have a nice workout at the gym and body massage at the hotel's Orient Day Spa, whose facilities include a heated whirlpool, sauna and Jacuzzi.

Moreover, the hotel is located in the heart of the country's premier financial district and along Makati's entertainment strip at 7870 Makati Avenue in between Kalayaan and Durban streets.

Thus, City Garden Makati is surrounded by specialty restaurants and entertainment establishments, and is very near shopping hubs and such other business centers as Rockwell and Global City, including the Ateneo Professional School.

With its many attributes lumped up into what they call "affordable luxury," the hotel has also become an "all-occasion location," serving as the preferred venue for weddings, debuts, baptisms, anniversaries and even kiddie parties, as it caters to the requirements of both the individual and the corporate family.

Reservations or inquiries can be made at 899-1111, or at domestic toll-free number 1-800-101-Garden (427336).

Maybank Group makes it to Financial Times 500 list

MAYBANK Philippines, a member of the Maybank Group, one of the best banks in Asia, recently announced the inclusion of its parent bank in the Financial Times 500 list for 2003. The FT500 is an annual ranking of the world's largest companies based on market capital and published annually by the Financial Times newspaper.

Maybank Group is the only Malaysian publicly listed company to make it to the prestigious list, an accomplishment credited to stakeholders' long-standing trust and confi-

dence in the bank. Maybank's latest achievement also echoes the importance the bank has placed on its shareholders, investors and customers, which has already earned it due recognition in numerous awards won in the last few years.

As part of the Maybank family, Maybank Philippines shares this milestone of success and affirms its mission to continuously strive to better its service delivery for the convenience and satisfaction of its targeted market in its area of operation.

Maybank is backed by a group asset of over \$40 billion. It started its Philippine commercial bank operations in 1997 and also maintains an international presence in more than 10 countries, including major financial centers like New York and London. Just recently, Maybank was also cited by Euromoney as one of Asia's Best Companies in 2003 (banking and finance) and also by the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) for Excellence in Corporate Governance standards and practices.



PAA AWARDS GM AUTOWORLD OFFICER

The directors and officers of the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA) recently awarded Judy Q. Bay, AVP for finance and administration of GM AutoWorld Quezon City, a certificate of merit and appreciation for her contribution leading to PAA's victory over one municipality's huge tax, which could have crippled some of its member-dealers. Shown, from left, are

Benjie A. Guerrero, PAA secretary general, Leo J. Ferreria, PAA vice president, George F. Balylock, PAA president, Kurt S. Bachmann Jr., director, Judy Bay, Levy Laus of the Laus Group of Automotive Dealers, Amando S. San Juan, PAA treasurer, and Francisco M. Aguilar, PAA consultant. The award was conferred during the 2nd 2003 general assembly of PAA.



DOTC UNDERSECRETARY INDUCTS PHILPESTA OFFICERS

The officers of the Philippine Petroleum Sea Transport Association (Philpesta) for 2003 to 2005 were inducted into office by DOTC Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon in a simple ceremony held recently at the Discovery Suites in Mandaluyong City. Shown, front row, from left, are Joven A. Yulo (treasurer), Roberto A. Umali (board chair), Bengzon, Arturo M. Madrigal (vice chair), Gerardo M. Santos (immediate past chair), Edgardo G. Lacson (chair, committee on advocacy), and Jay R. Olivarez. Shown, second row, from left, are Francisco P. Cerda (for William Y. How, auditor), Lole A. Zapan-

ta, Jonathan L. Lacson, Lawrence N. Leonio (chair for committee on economics), Vic Rossano C. Ignacio (chair for committee on technical safety and environment), Carmelo B. dela Cruz (chair for memberships), Cornelius C. de Guzman, Pedro G. Aguilar (corporate secretary), Capt. Renato T. Domingo, Marlon R. Santos, Carlo N. Leonio, Ruben Santos and Capt. Nonilo B. Gadian during the induction. Bengzon now heads the Maritime Cluster composed of Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).



PCTO INDUCTS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS

The Philippine Chamber of Telecommunication Operators (PCTO)-a newly formed organization composed of the leading telecommunications companies in the country-recently held its induction of officers and directors at the Manila Polo Club. The 14 founding members of the PCTO are BayanTel, Capwire, Digitel, Eastern Telecom, Express Telecom, Globe Telecom, Isacom, Paptelco, Philcom, PLDT, PT&T, Piltel, Smart and TTPI. Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Undersecretary Virgilio Pena gave the keynote address during the ceremonies, while National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento led the induc-

tion rites. The board chair and president of PCTO is Capwire's Epitacio Marquez. Shown during the induction were (seated, from left) Ma. Dolores Sygula-Santos of Piltel, Rodolfo Salama of Globe Telecom, Epitacio Marquez, Virgilio Pena, Jorge Sarmiento, Rogelio Quevedo of Smart, Filomena Vago of Express Telecom, (standing, from left), Jose Mari Lagdameo of Philcom, PCTO treasurer Albert Tuason of TTPI, Ernesto Reyes of PT&T, Rene Atienza of BayanTel, PCTO corporate secretary Michael de los Reyes, Enrico delos Reyes of Paptelco, Froilan Castelo of Isacom, Alfredo Carrera of PLDT, Fernan Rimando of Eastern Telecom and William Paranal of Capwire.



PHILIP MORRIS SPONSORS NATIONAL PR CONGRESS

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) has tapped Philip Morris Manufacturing Philippines Inc. as major sponsor for the 11th National Public Relations Congress to be held from Sept. 24 to 26 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. With the theme "Building Relationships for a Better World," the event brings together PR professionals, experts and advocates representing various industries and sectors in exploring revolutionary possibi-

lities in the practice of public relations. Shown during the sponsorship agreement signing are (seated, from left) PRSP secretary Carmencita Arce of GMA Network, PRSP Congress chair and Globe Telecom public relations head Jones Campos, APR, Philip Morris vice president for public affairs and communications Bayen Ellero and Philip Morris manager Dave Gomez. Looking on is PRSP adviser Evelyn del Rosario (standing), APR of PLDT

Global recovery gathers pace but jobs lag

NEW YORK—Economic data released on Friday showed manufacturers around the world cranking up activity or seeing a light at the end of their long slump, though with US workers still losing jobs, worries remain about prospects for consumer spending.

Factories in the United States snapped a four-month contraction in July to post slight growth, while Japan's showed the fastest expansion rate in a year. Britain also broke a streak of shrinking output.

While Europe's manufacturing was still mired in a slump, the pace

of contraction slowed and a rise in German new orders presaged better times ahead for an economy suffering from the export-choking rise in the euro's value.

Taken together, economists said the pieces of a US recovery helping drive global growth seem to be falling into place and should gather speed through the rest of the year, perhaps eventually leading to better employment prospects.

The US Institute for Supply Management said on Friday its manufacturing index rose to 51.8 in July, matching economists' pro-

jections and up from 49.8 in June, climbing above the 50 line that separates growth from contraction for the first time in five months.

A breakdown of the ISM components also pointed to stronger growth in coming months, with production rising as factory owners stepped up activity to fill new orders pouring in.

In Europe, the Reuters euro zone survey of 3,000 manufacturers showed that better demand in Germany helped to boost the overall index to 48.0 in July from 46.6 in June—still below the 50

mark but above market expectations of 47.0.

"Right across the board we're seeing an improvement not just in business confidence, but that confidence is turning into new orders," said Chris Williamson at NTC Research, which compiles European and Japanese manufacturing surveys for Reuters.

"When the German machine goes up a gear, the others will follow," said NTC's Williamson, adding that promised tax cuts and extended shop opening hours seemed to be making Ger-

man consumers more interested in spending. "There's a good chance of seeing a prolonged upturn now."

Japan's factories also saw an upturn in business as worries about the SARS virus receded and helped boost demand at home and abroad.

But for Asia as a whole, some economists cautioned that the improvement in the region's fortunes was also likely to be steady rather than spectacular as the United States and others continue to cope with the aftermath of

the 1990s investment bubble.

"It's not a very exciting outlook right now if you look at Asian GDP," said Jonathan Anderson, chief Asia-Pacific economist for investment bank UBS. "I'm very doubtful that we're going to see anything that looks like the pick-up we had in the first half of 2002."

The manufacturing data from Japan and Europe also shows companies are not confident enough yet to try raising prices to boost their profits, and that deflation remains entrenched in Japan.

Reuters

Analysts see steady Fed rates

NEW YORK—As glimmers of hope grow that the US recovery is returning to a solid footing, most economists expect the Federal Reserve will keep official interest rates at 45-year lows for a long time to help underwrite growth.

The few economists who still expect the Fed will need to cut rates again have postponed the timing of another easing from this month's policy meeting to later in the year.

A Reuters survey on Friday of the 22 top bond dealers on Wall Street who deal directly with the Fed found 18 see the central bank on hold till well into next year. But four are still expecting another rate cut this year to shore up growth.

Friday's data, including the sixth straight decline in employment and a modest improvement in manufacturing, did not shift

expectations cultivated by the Fed that it has no inclination to tinker with the 1.0 percent federal funds rate in coming months.

But investors have yet to believe the central bank's assurances that even if the economy picks up smartly, it won't have to raise rates because inflation is likely to remain low.

"The Federal Reserve has missed an opportunity to convince the market they can be patient (on rates) in a period of above-trend growth," said JP Morgan senior economist James Glassman.

The fed funds futures market, which bets on the path of interest rates, shows traders have fully priced in a rate hike as soon as March—long before most economists believe any rate rise will be warranted. Reuters

US jobless rate drops to 6.2% in July

WASHINGTON—The unemployment rate in the United States dipped to 6.2 percent in July, but businesses cut jobs for a sixth month in a row, still wary despite signs the economy is on the mend. With jobs scarce, close to half a million people gave up looking.

The Labor Department's report Friday suggested that the job market remains stubbornly sluggish, frustrating investors on Wall Street and polarizing lawmakers in Washington as they look for a way to get the economy back to full throttle.

Employers chopped 44,000 jobs in July, which brought losses since January to 486,000. Economists had been saying the statistics might show positions had

been added, perhaps as many as 10,000.

The jobless rate declined to a two-month low of 6.2 percent from a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June. The drop, however, reflected people leaving the work force, not a burst in hiring. The civilian labor force declined by 556,000 during the month as people left for any number of reasons.

The report also identified 470,000 people in July who were not currently looking for work because they were discouraged over job prospects. That was up from 405,000 in July 2002 but down slightly from the 478,000 discouraged people reported for June.

The lackluster job market, however, hasn't stopped shoppers, the main force keeping the economy afloat, from

ringing up retailers' cash registers.

Consumer spending and Americans' incomes each rose by a modest 0.3 percent in June, the Commerce Department reported.

President George W. Bush, mindful of the political defeat his father suffered in 1992 owing to a weak economy, pushed for a third round of tax cuts, passed by Congress in May, to bolster the economy.

The administration insists the fresh \$330 billion package along with previous tax cuts will help the economy grow and eventually create jobs.

"There's still too many people looking for work, so we keep working on the economy until people can find a job," Bush said Friday. AP

UAL posts biggest loss among major carriers

CHICAGO—Bankrupt UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines, on Friday posted the biggest quarterly net loss of all major US carriers, including reimbursement from the federal government for security fees, as revenue plunged 18 percent.

The world's second-largest airline, like other carriers, suffered from depressed travel as the United States led a war in Iraq and particularly as the deadly SARS virus spread through Asia, one of its crucial markets.

Its net loss, which includes special items associated with a complicated bankruptcy process, was far larger than that of its biggest rivals AMR Corp. and Delta Air Lines Inc.

United and Northwest Airlines

Corp. have the largest exposure to Asia of the major US carriers, and the SARS epidemic slashed traffic in that region for a couple of months.

"The second quarter began as a severe challenge for United and the industry as a whole, but we saw a particularly positive trend as we moved through the period," said Glenn Tilton, chairman and chief executive officer.

By the end of the quarter, the Iraq war had proved to be short-lived and the SARS fears had faded.

UAL has been in bankruptcy for eight months, filing the largest-ever aviation bankruptcy in late 2002 as falling revenue could not offset its soaring costs and debt. Reuters

Verizon faces strike over contract talks

PHILADELPHIA—Telephone company Verizon Communications Inc. faces a looming strike by 35 percent of its work force as disputes over health care coverage, job security and work transfers stymied its contract negotiations with two unions.

The talks pit Verizon, which struggles with scant revenue growth and a loss in telephone access lines, against labor unions hoping to preserve jobs and win more freedom to organize workers in the company's wireless affiliate.

The current contracts representing 80,000 union employees expire at midnight on Aug. 2.

Verizon and the unions met this week with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a

neutral third party that assists in resolving labor disputes.

The negotiations this week centered on issues such as how much health care costs employees should shoulder. As of Friday, large issues such as forced overtime, job security, pensions and retiree benefits, were unresolved according to updates on the Communications Workers of America's (CWA) website.

The CWA, which is negotiating alongside the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said it plans to picket on Saturday in New York and New Jersey, where Verizon is expected to be training "scab workers" to serve as telephone operators in case of a strike. Reuters

Economists apologize for Singapore job figures

SINGAPORE—In a dispute pitting respected economists at a government-funded university against the government itself, two academics have apologized for publishing information that called Singapore's employment policies into question.

In a letter of apology to Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen sent late Friday, Tan Khue Giap and Chen Kang from the Nanyang Technological University said they had made an "honest error of interpretation" when they said that three in four new jobs here over the last five years had gone to foreigners.

Newspapers widely reported the pair on Thursday urging the government to review its policy of encouraging foreigners to seek employment in Singapore.

Tan and Chen's findings were calculated from data in the Min-

istry of Manpower's Labor Force Survey. But the ministry later unveiled its own figures based on previously unreleased data, saying nine in 10 new jobs had gone to Singaporeans.

Singapore, with a population of 4 million, employs about 800,000 foreign workers, according to the Ministry of Manpower.

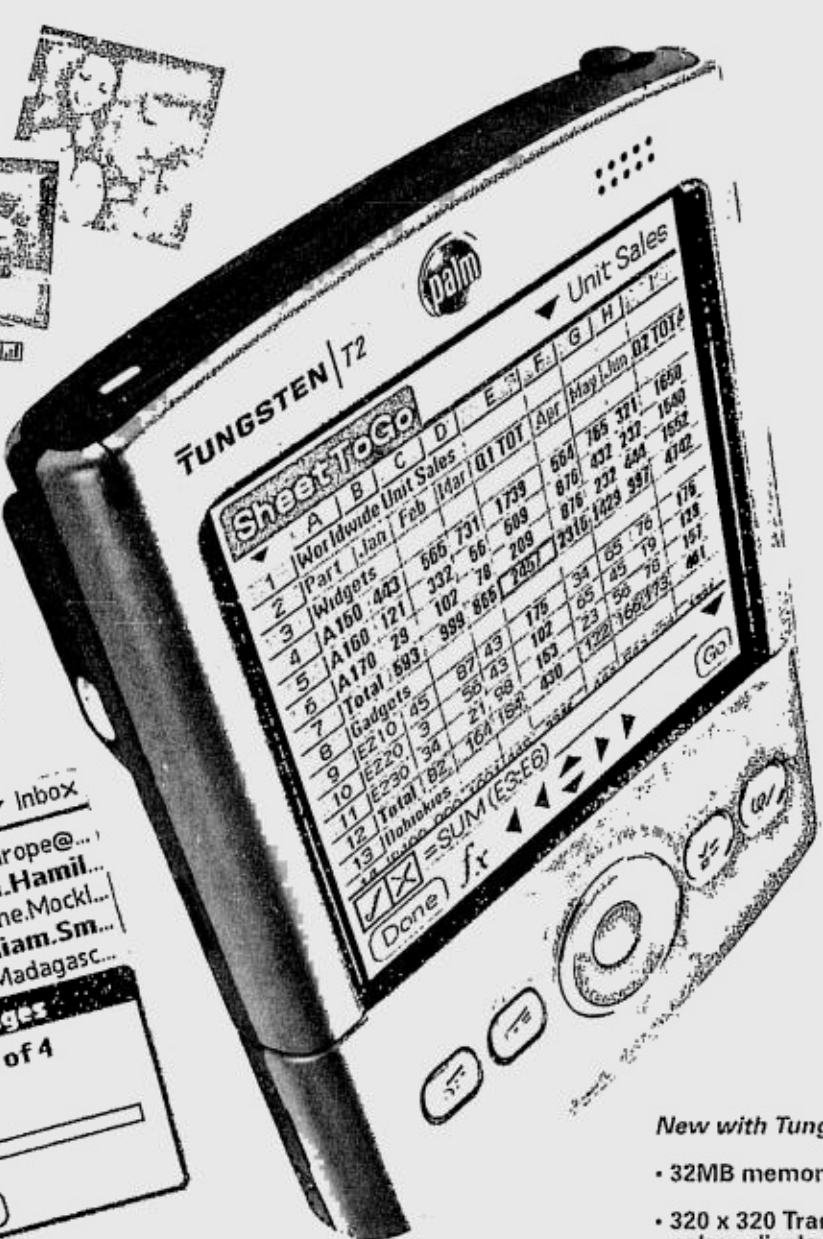
The foreign hire issue touched a raw nerve in Singapore, especially because government-aligned companies and statutory boards—bastions of the local economy—recently announced staff cuts.

Last month, flag-carrier Singapore Airlines slashed 414 jobs and persuaded its pilots to accept wage cuts of up to 16.5 percent and media giant Singapore Press Holdings cut 111 positions, while port operator PSA dropped 800 workers earlier this year. AP



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"We know the God raised the Lord Jesus from death,
 He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us,
 along with you, to God."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

JESUS "CHING" V. HERNANDEZ

"Founder of Servants of the Holy Spirit"

Peacefully joined His Creator, the best place in life
 on August 2, 2003 at the age of 63.

In loving memories of his wife BABY; children BONG
 & FRANCES, LITO & IMELDA; grandchildren JILIANA,
 JEROME, JAIME; brothers GOY & DOMENG; sister
 DORA; and other relatives and friends request the pious
 readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels,
 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment schedule will be announced later.

ROLANDO (ROLLY) MACARIO SORIANO

Of Tuhann Village, Parañaque City

Joined his Creator on August 1, 2003 at the age of 61.

His bereaved wife Gloria; children Vicky, Edward and Doreen; grandchildren
 Donn Miguel and Danna Yzabelle; sister, other relatives and friends request the
 pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucal Road,
 Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2003, 3:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial
 Park, Sucal Road, Parañaque City after the Holy Mass of 2:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity
 Memorial Chapels.

Whoever
 finds his life
 will lose it,
 and whoever
 loses his life
 for my sake
 will find it.
 Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory
 on the 30th Death Anniversary of
 AURELIA LOMBOS VERZO
 of Parañaque Metro Manila
 (who died on August 04, 1973)

Masses will be offered today at the following
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St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Parish Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa	6:00 a.m.
St. Andrew Parish Parañaque	6:00 p.m.
Mother of Good Counsel Parish Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque	7:00 p.m.
Mary The Queen Parish Greenhills West, San Juan	6:00 p.m.

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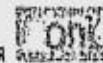
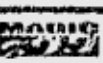
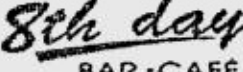
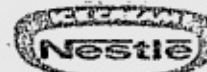
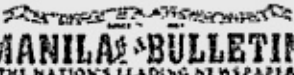
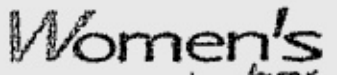
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AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-08C

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested
 parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1	1 LOT DATE OF BIDDING: AUGUST 26, 2003; 02:00 PM BATTERY, POWER FUSE, LIGHTNING ARRESTER	D1-03-174
A2	10 UNITS COMBINED OVER-CURRENT & AUTO- RECLOSER	3PSMDS-03-027
A3	12 UNITS RELAY	3PSMDS-03-025
A4	1 LOT RELAYS (FREQUENCY/LOCK OUT/ AUXILIARY)	PSMD-N-03-096

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on August 07, 2003; 10:00 AM
 at SLT bidding Room for Schedules A2 and A3.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained
 from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Bisan, Laguna,
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 No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Bisan,
 Laguna until 02:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility
 Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the
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Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as
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(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
 CHAIRMAN-BAC
 TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI - August 4, 2003)



Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
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**PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA
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 Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No. 2003NPGA61h/01

August 01, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby
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 at seller's option of Soybean Meal for December 2003 arrival of
 shipment.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards
 Committee (BAC), NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture
 Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on August 06,
 2003.

The pre-bid conference shall be held on August 07, 2003 at 2:00
 p.m. at the NAFC Conference Room.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than
 10:00 a.m. on August 12,

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pdp@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

PVPI is ISO certified

PUYAT Vinyl Products Inc. passed the requirements for certification of its quality management system last March 31.

Getting the official certification from an accredited international certification body TÜV Rheinland Phil. Ltd. is a major step toward the goal of PVPI to implement its vision a "the number one flooring company in the Philippines." The certification was achieved with rigorous eleven months of intensive preparation including training, orientation, documentation and infrastructure improvements, which started last March 2002 to February 2003. With its certification, PVPI quality management system is now in conformity with the established international standards, ISO 9001:2000.

This means that PVPI did not only meet the strict ISO regulatory require-

ments in providing quality products and services to its customer, but it has also provided for structure for its continual improvement by setting up measurable quality objectives in its processes. With adequate controls in order to improve PVPI organizational efficiency, effectiveness and productivity.

The strong management commitment and leadership and the active participation of all PVPI employees in the development of its quality management system ensure its effective implementation of the quality system at all levels of PVPI organization. Human resources developments and the upgrading of PVPI's plant facilities were instrumental in its achievement of improved customer service.

The quality management system provided for detailed and clear documentation of PVPI's processes thus re-

moving confusion and clearing gray areas in its system and emphasized the interconnection of people and work function in the workplace. It made each employee aware that every little thing one does has an impact and an effect on the greater number and on the organization itself. Thus the implementation of the concept of "accountability and responsibility" in all its acts, led to each employee in going beyond self and look into the totality specially its impact on PVPI quality of customer service.

The PVPI ISO team worked round-the-clock to pursue this endeavor and led a company-wide ISO campaign to fulfill the requirements of the international standard as a means of transforming PVPI into a more competitive and market driven company in providing high quality flooring products and services to the Filipino consumers.



FEDERAL LAND MAKES WAVES WITH JOLLIBEE

Real estate developer Federal Land Inc. and local fastfood giant Jollibee Foods Corp. signed a leasing agreement for Jollibee's newest branch location at The Wave, the latest dining and recreational complex at the Metropolitan Park along the new Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. and Edsa Extension, Pasay City. The Wave, which is near the Petron Mega Complex, will feature family-oriented dining establishments, convenience

stores, dry goods and other services designed to serve the needs of the growing community in the area. The mega station, developed by Federal Land Inc., is the only gas station in the area with multiple entries that include Chowking, Treats, and Pancake House, convenience stores as well as a Metrobank ATM site. Other Federal Land projects in the area include Toyota Manila Bay, Bay Gardens and Le Pavillion.

Filipino firms bag awards

QUEST Diagnostic Systems, and Microbio Specialists were the recipients of the much sought after Peace Award which is annually awarded by the International Association of Educators for World Peace Philippines, a United Nations recognized non-government organization dedicated towards working for the furtherance of peace and prosperity. Quest Diagnostic Systems and Microbio Specialists Inc. were cited for their continuing commitment and social responsibility to provide affordable medical examination opportunities to the marginalized of society and at the same time satisfy medical equipment needs of the country at very affordable rates.

Present during the simple awarding ceremonies held recently at the Manila Midtown Hotel were IAEWP national chancellor Dr. Josef De Ubald, DSC and IAEWP chair dean Rolando Carabonell, PhD, who turned over the award to Tommy Chuatak, vice president of the Quest Diagnostic Systems and Microbio Specialist Inc.

Quest Diagnostic Systems and Microbio Specialists Inc. were set up in the early nineties to provide the country's health system with quality, yet affordable medical and clinical equipment and laboratory products for hospitals and clinics nationwide. To date, Quest Diagnostic Systems and Microbio Specialists have set up extension offices from as far as north as Vigan to Cagayan de Oro down south. From a simple office in Binondo, Quest and Microbio have now expanded to a nationwide operation.

The IAEWP is also a recipient of the International Messenger of Peace Award from the UN.



FIRST NOKIA CONCEPT STORE

The first 100 percent Nokia store is now open at Unit 161-162 Cyberzone, SM City North Edsa in Quezon City. With hip and colorful designs for its interior, the store showcases the different categories of Nokia mobile phones, various accessories and value added services like Club Nokia, demos and a hands-on experience of the latest Nokia handsets. Truly a one-stop shop, the Nokia

store also features its after-market servicing department called Nokia care for a more personalized approach to meeting your mobile phone needs, inquiries and repairs. Photo shows Nokia Mobile Phones country general manager Parikshit Bhasin (left) presenting a certificate to Victor Tan, CEO of Accord Customer Care Solutions, to symbolize the store's formal opening.

A Bridal Affair

GUESTS can expect a lot of prizes, fun and a variety of suppliers in the upcoming wedding fair, A Bridal Affair, to be held on Aug. 9 to 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila. Get a chance to win exciting prizes such as hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Regency Manila, or a free buffet lunch for two. Visit the website at www.bridalaffair.net to register today. The grand prize is an appliance showcase from Tefal. Interested wedding suppliers may contact Jeannette Noonan at tel. nos. 9828096 or 0917-5312284. A Bridal Affair is brought to you by Joey@92.3, 105.1 Crossover, Hizon's Catering and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.



SSC-R Cavite City IV-Red H.S. batch '93 reunion

THE San Sebastian College - Cavite City IV-Red H.S. batch '93 will be having a reunion on Sept. 27 (Saturday). Batchmates are requested to attend the committee meeting on Sept. 6 (Saturday), 8:00 p.m. at April Igtiben's residence in Remelville Subd. Noveleta Cavite. For details contact: Alvin - 4381051 / 09194121797; April - 4381954 / 09178140409; Arnold - 09204057755; Dicit - 4387063 / 09189404986; Christine - krixtime@philwebinc.com; Nat - 09178489101; Richard - 09193574576; Ver - 0917622579; and Normandy - 09192597868. Visit the website at www.geocities.com/revengeofthereds.

Workforce Mission: East Asia

ASIAN Center for Missions and Church of God Makati with participating churches in Metro Manila presents "Workforce Mission: East Asia" Discover God's Agenda For Your Work - A Mission Conference for the Harvest in East Asia. It will be held on Sept. 4 and 5 (8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) and on Sept. 6 (1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the COGM Ministry Center, Sanctuary, 2226 Pasong Tamo cor. Don Bosco St. Makati City. Pre-registration fee is P200 (Inclusive of materials and light snack) which is up to Aug. 15. On the date registration is P250. Register at Church of God Makati tel. no. 810-5366 or fax at 810-1567; or at Asian Center for Missions, Makati tel. no. 897-1898.

PDMA launches PDMAEC '03

PDMA, a non profit organization of the die and mold industry has recently launched the PDMAEC 2003 - the 1st die and mold, machine tools, equipment, accessories and other related products and services exhibition and conference. PDMAEC is scheduled to be held from Aug. 18 to 31 at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC). For more information, contact Show Management Co., MAI (Market Access Innovations) Management Phils. at tel. nos. 898-2198 or 890-1087 and look for Angle Barrios or Lady Galura.



PGH-MSD CONNECT

Pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD) and the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) have formalized their partnership for the creation of the PGH-MSD Communication and Information Networking Center, or Connect. It will be the first comprehensive center designed to serve electronic communications and information access needs of doctors, students of medicine and other health professionals. Connect will have 30 computer stations connected by a local area network (LAN) and with round-the-clock Internet access. Present during the turnover ceremonies held at the PGH (from left): Stephanie Merida, MSD cardiovascular business unit director; Dr. Beaver

Tamesis, MSD bone and joint business unit director; Dr. Camillo Roa, vice chair, UP-PGH Department of Medicine; Dr. Aldrin Loyola, clinical associate professor, UP-PGH Department of Medicine; Christine Liwanag, MSD corporate affairs director; Dr. Juan Nanagas, UP-PGH medical director; Dr. Antonio Dans, assistant chair for research, UP-PGH Department of Medicine; Catherine Dallarte, MRC services manager; and Virgilio Dizon, MSD specialty business unit director. For more information on PGH-MSD Connect, contact the MSD customer call center available at telephone numbers 878-6338 or 1-800-188-6737 (toll free) for those outside Metro Manila.



EARLY WEAN SUMMER FARM PA-SWERTE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

The final batch of winners of Early Wean' raffle promo was hand picked from among the thousand of entries from the different regions. Luzviminda Archangel of Rizal won the 1st Prize of one PS Breeder Gilt, the 2nd prize (farrowing/nursery pen) went to Violeta Estepa of La Union, Erinda Obog of Camarines Norte

won the 3rd prize (power sprayer), Apolinar Villareal of Nueva Ecija and Carmelita Pasicolan of Tuguegarao City won 4th and 5th prize respectively. A total of 30 consolation prize winners were also drawn. Early Wean Brand Managers, together with a DTI rep, presided over the draw procedures.



NEW ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), together with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), reinforces President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign to fight drug-related crimes and educate the youth about drug-abuse, by signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the Batang Iwas Droga (Bida) campaign. Bida is a 13-episode animated series for television, which aims to educate the youth, as well as their parents, on the hazardous effects of drug addiction. A successful presentation of the project was witnessed

by Pagcor, GSIS and PCSO officials at Pagcor's corporate office last May 29. Photo shows Pagcor chair and chief executive officer Elfrain Genuino (center) shaking hands with PCSO chair Ma. Livia 'Honeygirl' de Leon. With them are GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia (extreme right) and Pagcor chief operating officer Rafael 'Butch' Francisco (second from left). Also in photo are, from left: Bida Productions CEO Jesus Velmonte, Bida Productions COO Angelo Tesoro, Pagcor PR chief Manny Garcia and GSIS vice president for public affairs Nilo Racimo.

Product FILES

Kjeldsens at the Wofex 2003

KJELSENS Butter Cookies, Imported from Denmark and exclusively distributed by Alexanrey Enterprises, will join the best food and beverage products from all over the globe at the World's Food Expo 2003 to be held on Aug. 6 to 9 at the World Trade Center, Manila. See Kjeldsens Butter Cookies, Macadamia Nut Cookies and Choc'n Fruit in Strawberry variety, at the country's most anticipated food event of the year, World's Food Expo 2003. For inquiries, contact PEPGroup at 436-4711-12, 929-7963 or 93 or 436-4898, or log on to www.worldsfoodexpo.com.



Greenwich lauch Cebu's first one number delivery service

GREENWICH recently launched its one number delivery in Cebu City. It's 254-1000. This is the first delivery hotline number in the metropolis. Now, the great-tasting food of the number 1 pizza chain in the Philippines is just one number away in the Queen City of the South.



STORES ASIA 2003 EXPO

Royalink Builders, a professional architectural service provider and building contractor, joins the Philippine Retailer Association's Store Asia 2003 Expo, a twin activity of the 12th National Retailers Conference to be held on Aug. 13 to 15 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Organized by the PRA, Store Asia 2003 is the only focused and dedicated retail suppliers exhibition in the country.

Photo shows (from left): Shangri-La sales manager Mavic Reclio, PRA secretary general Evelyn Balmeo Salire; Picture City president and expo chair lawyer Paul Santos; Royalink Builders VP for finance Ma. Isabel Patnongon; Sportshouse CEO and expo committee co-chair Mars Chua; Royalink Builders project manager Anthony Tabing; and Store Asia Expo project officer Allen Catindig.



BCIA CONDUCTS MEDICAL MISSION

Another medical mission was conducted by BCIA (Bulacan Commercial Industrial Association Inc.) in coordination with Caloocan Filipino-Chinese Charity Clinic last May 11 at San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. This medical mission aims to offer free services such as free doctor and dental consulta-

tions, free circumcision, and free medicines. Headed by president of BCIA, Joseph Lim Bon Huan, (3rd from the left) and supported by Vice Governor Rely Placencia (from the province of Bulacan) and Vice Mayor Lita delos Santos of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

China to dominate network consulting, integration market in Asia-Pacific: IDC

By Joel D. Pinaroc

THE PEOPLE'S Republic of China is expected to lead the total network consulting and integration market in the Asia Pacific (excluding Japan) in 2003 in terms of growth, making it the fastest growing and the largest in this field, according to a report from research firm International Data Corporation.

In IDC's latest study, titled "Asia/Pacific Network Consulting and Integration Forecast and Analysis, 2002-2007" the research firm reported that the network consulting and integration market in Asia Pacific will total



\$1.28 billion in 2003, and is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16 percent to reach \$2.3 billion by 2007.

The research firm is projecting that China will contribute approximately 33 percent of the total

market in 2003, with an expected CAGR of 26 percent, and will be worth \$1.08 billion by 2007.

According to IDC analyst Nicholas Yong, "the growth in the PRC is fuelled by the country's continued economic expansion.

Companies entering the PRC will drive demand for network infrastructure services. Companies already in the PRC will find that the need to upgrade their networks become more pressing as the market matures and becomes more competitive."

Moves to deregulate the Chinese telecom market will also result in the emergence of new telecommunications players, thereby further driving demand for network consulting and integration services, Yong said.

IDC also expects the market impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS to be "short-term" and direct. One

caveat however is that the Chinese government must continue efforts to eliminate the epidemic, for the market to fully realize its potential.

After China, IDC said that the second fastest growing country is Malaysia with a CAGR of 18 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, IDC said that the slowest growing countries in the region are Hong Kong and Singapore, with both countries expected to grow at a CAGR of one percent and 2 percent respectively. IDC hinted that the network integration market in these two countries may have reached a plateau.

IT groups seek . . .

From page B16

President was expecting that the three phases of the Comelec's modernization program—including the controversial P1.3-billion project—would push through.

An industry source, however, pointed out that any legal action aimed at the modernization projects of the Comelec would likely delay the computerization of the 2004 polls.

"I think we can resolve this problem if both sides are willing to openly discuss this project in a dialogue," the source said.

He also said that the Philippine IT industry is divided on this issue.

Meanwhile, the Comelec has maintained that the project and its bidding process were transparent and above-board.

RP poised to tap outsourcing mart for medical transcription

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE UNITED STATES government passed a law in 1996 requiring the documentation of all encounters between physicians and patients to facilitate the delivery of health services as well as for insurance purposes.

The law, however, was strictly enforced only in April this year and the demand by some 6,700 hospitals in the United States for documentation has resulted in a significant boom in the outsourcing of information technology professionals who could fulfill the need for medical transcription.

Medical transcription basically means converting into written form the dictation by the physician and other healthcare professionals regarding patient assessment, workup, therapeutic procedures, clinical course, diagnosis and prognosis to document patient care and facilitate healthcare services and insurance.

The Philippines has benefited from the IT outsourcing trend, and a number of medical transcription companies have been set up to house these medical transcriptionists or MTs.

An MT is a medical language specialist who transcribes dictations by physicians and other health care professionals regarding patient assessment, workup, therapeutic procedures, clinical course, diagnosis, in order to provide a permanent record of patient care.

The government has recognized the potential and the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions sent a medical transcription mission to explore opportunities in the US medical transcription services market, which is valued at around \$25 billion.

Eugenio G. Gonzalez, president of IT Outsourcing Inc., said the Internet, faster data transfer bandwidth rates, more advanced systems solutions and secure encryption and storage technologies with lower operational costs have allowed offshore outsourcing to grow rapidly.

It also does not help American workers that most of the MTs are about 45 years old, do not type very fast and are home-based. Estimates show that the American market needs between 49,000 and 125,000 MTs every year to cope with the demand.

India was one of the first countries that took a big slice of the MT market, but the number of companies have shrunk from over 1,000 to just a fraction because of concerns on quality, Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said these quality concerns prompted him and colleagues to put up MTC Academy, the only institution accredited by Tesda with its curriculum patterned after the American Association of Medical Transcriptionists. It is also affiliated with the Medical Transcription Industry Alliance and the American Association of Medical Transcriptionists.

MTC Academy spent about 11 months to complete the curriculum to make sure that it is up to date with the developments in the United States and would cover challenges along the way such as listening through the doctors doing dictation while they are eating. MTs would also be taught to type under a new typing system to speed up transcription.

"We want to help prevent the Philippines from going the way of India. We want to be known for having quality of MTs so that we could get a big supply of the growing market," Gonzalez says.

Gonzalez said having specialized education in medical transcription is important because not everybody is cut out to be an MT.

"They should understand that there is no room for mistakes. They literally have the patients' lives in their hands because a wrong item there, even a discrepancy of 0.0 in the dosage may spell the life or death of the next patient," he says.

He adds that the Philippines should develop a reputation for quality because it faces competition from other English-speaking countries like the Dominican Republic, Australia, Pakistan, Israel and New Zealand.

"But we do have an advantage because of our exposure to American English. We also have a high number of medical graduates," he said.

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INFOTECH

IT groups seek TRO on election automation

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SEVERAL industry associations from the Philippine information and communications technology sector are set to file a petition with the Supreme Court today to nullify the P1.3-billion modernization project of the Commission on Elections, officials told INQ7.net.

The Comelec project involves the purchase of more than 2,000 counting machines deployed nationwide to facilitate the counting and canvassing of votes dur-

ing the 2004 national elections.

"We're working on a petition to the Supreme Court to nullify the awarding of the contract (to MegaPacific eSolutions Inc.)," said Maria Corazon Akol, president of the Philippine Association of Data Entry Corp. (Padec).

MegaPacific is a consortium that includes South Korean firm SK Global, US-based election.com, ePLDT, Textronix and WeSolve as its suppliers of technology and integration services.

MegaPacific won the project over a group led by Total Infor-

mation Management whose members include Unisys Corp. and US firm ES&S.

Akol was among the signatories of an industry open letter to the Comelec urging the poll body to look into questions on the eligibility of the winning bidder, MegaPacific.

The MegaPacific consortium was incorporated only in February 2003, according to the open letter.

The group also asked the Comelec to look into the alleged failure of both bidders to meet tech-

nical requirements, which they said should have led to a declaration of failure of the bid.

The Comelec is set to evaluate the first batch of counting machines this month.

Akol acknowledged that their petition would also mean that the IT associations would eventually file for a temporary restraining order, stopping the Comelec from proceeding with the project.

"I suppose (the petition) would require a TRO," Akol said.

In a separate interview, Augusto Lagman, a vocal IT executive

and member of the National Movement for Free Elections, confirmed that several IT organizations are seeking the Supreme Court's opinion on the awarding of the contract to MegaPacific.

Leading the petition is the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, an umbrella organization of IT industry associations in the country.

Akol said that IT groups supporting the petition to the SC include the Padec, the Government for IT, the CIO Forum and the Information Technology Associa-

tion of the Philippines.

The Philippine Computer Society, one of the country's biggest industry associations, has chosen not to support the petition, Akol said.

In another interview, Virgilio Peña, executive director of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council, pointed out that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has vowed to modernize elections in 2004.

In her recent State of the Nation Address, Peña noted that the

IT/B15



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Taking a look at men who decide execs' pay

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HOW much should top executives and members of a company's board of directors be paid?

This is one of the most difficult areas to resolve with the changes sweeping across the corporate world, according to Simon Dudley, head of the International Practice for consulting firm Watson Wyatt in Europe.

The compensation committees of the board are tasked to determine the pay of the company's management.

Dudley, however, says there is no choice but to come to an agreement on what constitutes the "right" pay as investors have already shown that they would not tolerate excesses, given the extent of the excesses displayed by executives of corporations that failed in recent years.

Over the past years, the corporate world has been rocked by scandals such as those of Enron Corp. and Worldcom, characterized by top executives getting huge salaries even if the firms were on the brink of collapse.

These caused a significant drop in investor confidence to a level never before seen on Wall St.

The backlash has prompted company boards from the US to Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Philippines to restudy their priorities, according to Dudley.

"There has been considerable pressure from institutional shareholders for the board to be more active ... They are being asked to be concerned not just for shareholders but also for employees and even customer requirements," he said during the recent forum sponsored by the Management Association of the Philippines, the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Financial Executives of the Philippines.

A pioneering survey on Board of Directors Policies and Practices conducted by consulting firm Watson Wyatt Worldwide showed that the Philippines is not far behind in terms of compliance with corporate governance rules.

The study, a copy of which was obtained by Business Monday, showed that while achieving the desired financial results is, under-



standably, still the main goal of any board member, other concerns have increased significantly in level of importance over the past two years.

"This is probably due to the growing pressure for more effective corporate governance practices. These concerns include: ethics, directors' liability, strategic planning, shareholder relations, top management performance and executive compensation," the study said.

Some 20 local companies participated in the study, with a number having operations abroad and 17

are listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

These are A. Soriano Corp., Alaska Milk Corp., Angeles Electric Corp., Ayala Corp., Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc., Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank, Belle Corp., Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp., Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and First Metro Investment Corp.

First Philippine Holdings Corp., Globe Telecom Inc., House of Investments Inc., Petron Corp., Philippine Seven Corp., RFM

Corp., Security Bank Corp., SPI Technologies Inc. and Transnational Diversified Group.

The companies in the survey posted an average of P11.576 billion in revenues in 2001, with an average asset size of P40.130 billion and about 1,488 employees.

A third are investment/holding companies, 30 percent are banks and financial institutions, 15 percent are into manufacturing and others are in business process outsourcing, telecommunications, retail, utilities and real estate/leisure.

The Watson Wyatt study showed that the companies surveyed have already taken steps toward improving corporate governance, in compliance with circulars issued by both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas since last year.

The 20 companies included in the survey showed that most of them have three independent directors on their board. The typical size of the board is 11 members.

The members of the board, including the independent directors, are usually hired for their

having sound management skills, followed by industry knowledge, skills in finance/accounting and grasp of strategic planning.

"The skills required at the board level influence the ease or difficulty of attracting qualified and competent independent directors. These skill requirements are normally acquired through experience over a long period of time," the study says.

As for the chairman of the board, the study notes that 45 percent of the board chairmen are also executives of the company or are also the president or CEO. Only 5 percent are independent.

About 40 percent are also major controlling shareholders of the company, 15 percent are family members of the CEO, 30 percent are the founders of the company and 35 percent are nominee representative. The members of the board attend an average of 85 percent of their meetings.

Stories of excessive compensation that rocked the US have put corporate boards under a harsh light.

Questions arise on whether

TAKING/B2-2

Ways to manage cash shortages

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP ISSI

WHICH small business does not find itself, from time to time, in a similar situation—unable to meet the week's payroll, the months' utility bills, the quarter's loan amortization,

tomorrow's promised payment to a supplier? But very few businesses would have owners cockeyed enough to think people would readily understand his dilemma.

Cash flow needs to be managed because, as all of you businessmen know, cash outflows and inflows will almost never occur at the same time. Cash inflows, in fact, have an uncanny way of lagging behind outflows for as long as weeks and months. This shortage is known as the cash flow gap.

Experiencing a cash flow gap occasionally is par for the course. It doesn't necessarily mean your business is on the verge of collapse. Even the best-managed companies are at the mercy of seasonal fluctuations.

How does one improve cash inflow vis-a-vis cash outflow?

Tom Ranada, proprietor of Up-trend, an importer-distributor of vitamins and food supplements, fills up an occasional cash flow gap by buying on credit. He also gives discounts or rebates on volume sales in order to perk up sales revenues. He advises cash-strapped entrepreneurs to look around the workplace. Are there surplus or idle equipment or furniture that can be sold? Are there waste materials or by-products that can be converted into cash? Tongue in cheek he adds: "Perhaps the owner has extra time to

handle a part-time job."

Felicitas Borlongan recalls that in the early stages of her auto air-conditioning business, Abacus, which she owns with her husband, she barely had cash to buy inventory. What they did to cope with the shortage was to buy just enough motor parts to replace those which were used up on a given day.

Ariel Claudio Co, owner-manager of Innobuild Construction, says he maintains cordial if not friendly relations with his suppliers. If they trust you, he says, you can purchase your materials and supplies on credit rather than cash. If they have become your friends, they give you very generous terms. This has enabled the engineer-contractor to reserve his cash for other capital requirements, like salaries.

Look at the possibility of getting your clients or customers to pay you in advance for their orders, Co advises.

If you ask business consultants, they will tell you that the key to improving your cash flow is to delay cash outflows. They're not saying you should renege payment; you still need to meet your payables on time. But holding out as long as you can allows you to maximize every peso you have.

Realizing the benefits from delaying cash outflow means taking the first step in cash flow management.

A fundamental for the proper management of cash outflows is to track and manage your business liabilities. Another basic rule is to pay your bills on time but never before they are due.

The Business Owner's Toolkit names three tools for managing

WAYS/B2-2

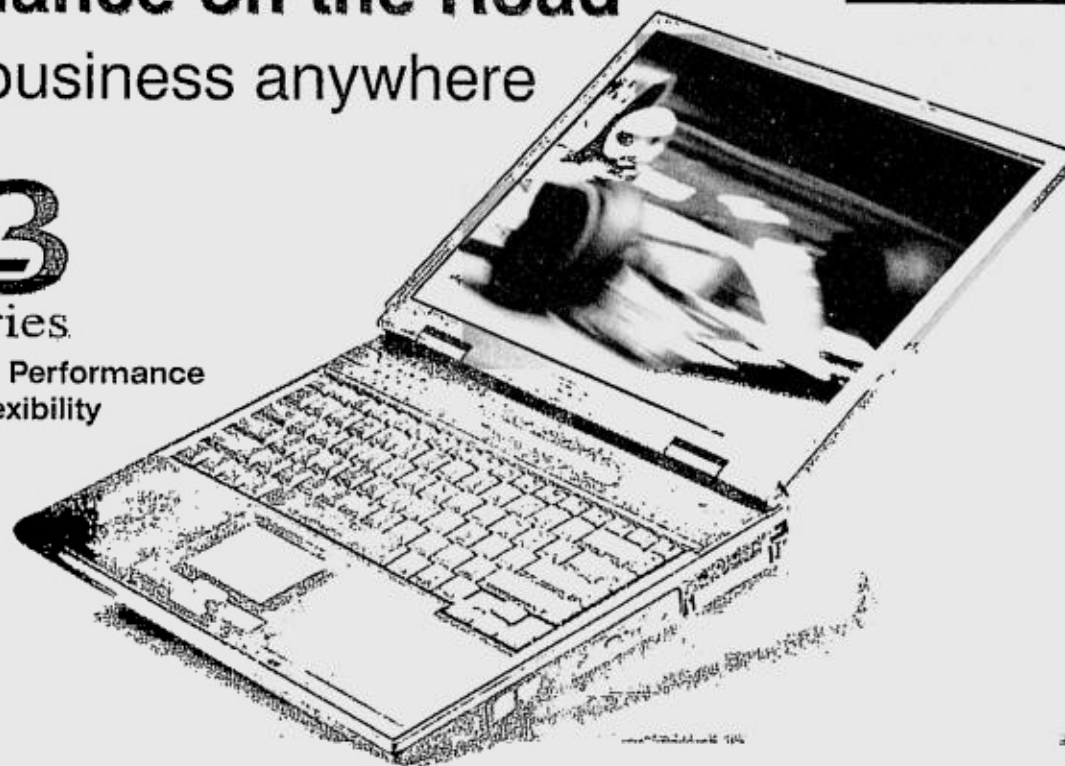


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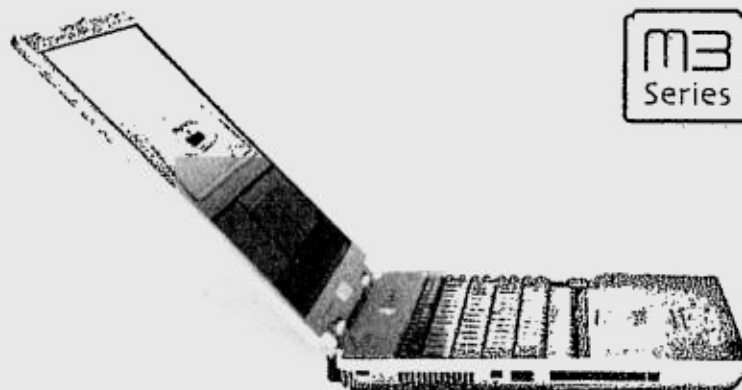


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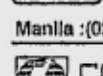


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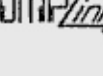
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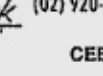
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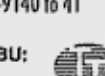
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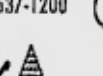
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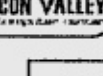
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RP engineering education: Expectations vs performance

(First of three parts)

FIRST, a decision on what decades to cover:

Decade I 1984-1993 Department of Education, Culture & Sports (DECS)

Decade II 1994-2003 Commission of Higher Education (CHED)

Decade I—Very little data since CHED's MIS starts in 1994. The Technical Panel for Engineering Education (TPEE) was very strict with laboratory requirements during this period.

CHED, through the engineering panels, had a closure threat for engineering institutions without a 100 percent passing grade in laboratory equipment.

A number of schools in NCR, Central Colleges of the Philippines (CCP), Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT), Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) and a few other schools in the provinces complied.

Fewer provincial schools had 100-percent compliance. But to the disadvantage of schools who complied, no engineering programs in spite of the threat were closed by CHED.

Up to this date, no engineering school has been closed. A few programs have been closed due to poor PRC results.

Decade II—The technical panels in engineering were not as strict in their institutional visitations. Schools were more involved in accreditation and with PRC passing average. With the PRC report it was found that some engineering schools had zero performance for the past five years of their program. In maritime engineering, several schools had their programs closed.

CHED came up with a "White List" of approved schools that met the compliance of Standards of Training Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) and International

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Teresita U. Quirino



al Maritime Organizations (IMO).

The popularity of engineering courses has to do with the demand of high paying jobs for graduates especially in ICT and maritime engineering.

With the continuous Philippine population growth and with the knowledge explosion, more and more engineering schools opened and later on more and more engineering courses in ICT have become popular. Some of these engineering ICT programs still do not require licensure examination.

Post World War II

After World War II, from 1950s

up, only the more common engineering courses were offered civil, chemical, mechanical and electrical. There were also surveying, and geodetic engineering. In recent years, chemical and mechanical engineering have decreased in number of enrollees. Presently, students enroll in the more popular ICT engineering programs.

For the school year 2000-2001 CHED data, the tertiary education enrollment by discipline group gives engineering the third highest enrollment among disciplines:

From school year 1994-1995 to school year 1999-2000, NCR schools with highest enrollment in the different engineering programs were MIT, TIP, Adamson University (AU), University of the East (UE) Caloocan, Manuel L. Quezon University (MLQU), University of Santo Tomas (UST), New Era University (ERA) and in computer engineering, AMA

Discipline	Total enrollment
Business Administration and Related	645,970
Education and Teacher Training	469,019
Engineering	369,175
Mathematics and Computer Science	239,931
Medical and Allied	141,771
All other disciplines	less than 100,000

Computer University (ACU). For government schools, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Pamantasan Ng Lungsod Ng Maynila (PLM), Rizal Technological University (RTU).

Edcom Conclusions

1. Access and equity. It is recommended that tertiary institutions should have selective admission. Each institution should

have its own admission policy and test. Entrance tests is a practice common to many engineering schools but not all engineering schools however are selective in their admissions.

2. Quality and relevance. Among the recommended steps are:

2.1 Strengthen accreditation based on the principle of peer evaluation (benchmarking). This is not a practice in the Philippines but in the United States.

The Apec engineer. In Aug. 21-22, 1997, the steering committee of the Best Practices in Professional Engineering Accreditation, Recognition and Development Project held a workshop in Manila.

It was in this workshop that the concept Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) was discussed with globalization and RP ENGINEERING/B2-3

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Taking a look ...

From page B2-1

they get paid too much that they compromise independence from management?

On the other hand, how can a board hire and retain qualified board members to sit on boards and be willing to work and take on the growing challenges in today's corporate and regulatory environment?

"These are questions and concerns that are critical in designing current board compensation," Watson Wyatt said.

The survey showed that board directors are usually in the form of an annual retainer—given as an annual lump sum amount; board level fees—given on a per full-board level meeting basis; and committee level fees—given on a per committee meeting basis.

"Almost all companies (in the survey) provide a fixed amount of fees for every full-board level meeting attended by its directors. However, there are a few companies that do not provide this amount to directors other than the chairman," the study said.

A board chair receives a low of P750 to a high of P24,000 per meeting, depending on the company. Other directors receive between P1,000 and P30,000.

Committee chairmen (35 percent of companies) and members (30 percent of companies) receive additional fees for every committee meeting held. Most of the companies that provide committee level fees do not differentiate fees between committee chairman and other members, the study said.

A committee chairman usually receives a minimum of P1,000 to a high of P30,000 for an average of P8,143. In addition, a few companies provide a fixed cash allowance given either monthly or quarterly.

Directors are also entitled to other perks such as travel allowances and bonuses such as profit sharing.

"No distinction is made in terms of the type of bonus between independent and other non-executive directors. However, the bonus amounts vary between independent and non-executive directors. Profit sharing schemes are the most prevalent forms of bonus provided," the study said.

Watson Wyatt also noted that only 25 percent of the companies surveyed offer a long-term incentive plan to their directors. For these companies, typical plans are stock options, stock grants, stock purchases and deferred-cash incentives.

There is no other time like now when investors, consumers and minority shareholders are looking at the board of their companies to take their responsibilities more seriously than before.

Ways to manage ...

From page B2-1

outflows; trade credit, trade discount, negotiating payment terms with suppliers and vendors or deferring expenses; and using the "float."

Trade discounts is a percentage taken off the total amount of your supplier's invoice if you pay within a specified period of time. This is typically one or two percent if you make payment within 10 days.

It is obviously a contradiction to the basic rule of delaying cash outflows. In most cases, you are better off to pay the bill early and take advantage of the trade discount.

Trade credit is what you get when your supplier allows you to defer cash payments for goods or service in exchange for your promise to pay them in the future. It is essentially an interest-free short-term loan.

Negotiating payment terms presumes that some of your suppliers may be willing to extend to you longer credit terms on the basis of: your past and present business relationship with them, your past payment history and perceived credit worthiness, and prospect of securing a larger order or your continued patronage.

Finally, you may try to use a somewhat risky way of handling a temporary cash shortage called the "float"—which is the difference between when your check is written and when it is cashed.

There are many options for the cash-strapped entrepreneurs.

"Growing your business" is a weekly series for small enterprises who need guidance in their expansion and growth stages. Those interested in the "Managing Your Finances" program of UP ISSI on Aug. 16 to Sept. 13 can call 920-7076 to 79.)

Academe's view ...

From page B2-4

The deficit is making the debt burden heavier—it is gobbling funds that should be used for social priorities and economic development.

In 2002 the debt outstanding was fully 71.1 percent of GDP. The corresponding debt/GDP ratios were much smaller in Thailand (50%) and Malaysia (51%).

That leads to debt service eating up 28.4 percent of the government budget in 2003. Compare that with the 29.2 percent slice in the budget of social services.

Debt service even gets a bigger slice than economic services (20%).

To sum it up

The GMA administration has promoted growth, except for the industry sector, and has done quite well in controlling inflation.

Some jobs were created, but they were not enough to make a serious dent on un-

employment.

On the downside, the external accounts are not pretty. Even uglier is the fiscal situation, the inherited government deficit. The deficit is swelling the public debt, denying vital funds for social services. The administration also has a backlog of vital bills to push in Congress.

Templo makes the following recommendations:

- Vigorously pursue fiscal reforms. This can be done on both the legal and administrative fronts.

- Given budget constraints, improve the efficiency of service delivery, especially for the poor.

- Focus on investment-stimulating measures. These require improving peace and order, implementing anti-corruption programs, and pursuing measures to enhance the nation's competitiveness.

- Finally, push for the passage of economic bills. Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>

RP engineering education ...

From page B2-2

World Trade Organization.

The Apec has been meeting every year with the ministers/heads of state of the member countries.

What is an Apec engineer

- In the workshop, an Apec engineer is defined as a professional engineer within an Apec economy, and has satisfied an authorized body in that economy, operating in accordance with the criteria and procedures approved by the Apec engineering committee.

- Completed an accredited or recognized engineering program;

- Been assessed within their own economy as eligible for independent practice;

- Gained a minimum of seven years practical experience since graduation;

- Spent at least two years in responsible charge of significant engineering work;

- Maintained their continuing professional development at a satisfactory level.

2.2 Strengthen and improve graduate education and research (status of quality teachers). Research is still a concern. Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea of Mapua has this concern on research.

"My current thinking on the matter is that we should do a careful study of the environment and choose R&D that realistically shows promise of getting the long-term attention and support from funding entities, including industry. We cannot afford to do research for

its own sake. Unfortunately, some of us undergoing accreditation may be forced into a no-choice situation in this regard. After having identified the areas, we should measure our capability. If found wanting then capacity building should be the first order of the day. The generation of intellectual property should be the motivation."

"The number of approved patents should be the concrete measure. The number of spin-off companies resulting from R&D is another barometer. Technical papers should be somewhere in the picture if patents and/or spin-off companies can be realized. In a way the decision to be made is an investment decision."

2.3 Adapt multiple measures of quality of graduates through civil service, board exam performance, job performance.

Only board exam performance is being measured. Civil service has to do with government institutional requirements. Job performance can only be equated in terms of being employed or unemployed.

2.4 Review of curriculum programs and involve business/industry leaders in education. Involvement of industry is very minimal in curriculum development.

In Tesda this is the practice. Almost 50 training manuals have been prepared with TVET experts and industry. (To be continued)

(The author is the president of the Technological Institute of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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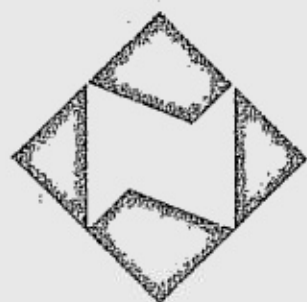
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BUSINESSMonday

What is the proper way to answer a telephone call?

Q: I get so irritated when calling companies only to be asked "What is this about?" after specifically asking for a person. This happens to almost every single company I call. Sometimes they say "Regarding what?" or something to that effect. Worst is when secretaries say, "I'll check if he's in," just like saying, "wait, I'll see if he wants to speak with you."

Please instruct people on the proper way to answer the phone.

A: Telephone etiquette is so crucial to businesses and yet you are absolutely correct as I too

have heard these phrases repeatedly. I wish companies would understand that these types of phone transactions are exactly what destroys a customer's image of the company.

So to people out there, not just secretaries or assistants who answer phones, but to everyone, the way you answer your phone calls at work will totally reflect on the image of your company.

Here are some very general guidelines as this is a whole subject matter and entire articles can be written on telephone etiquette alone.

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

1. Identify the company, department and who you are.

When answering a business call do not say "hello" and stop there. The proper way to answer is:

a. Switchboard. "Good Morning/Afternoon, XYZ Inc. How may I direct your call?"

b. Local outside call. "Accounting, this is Hermie, how can I

help you?"

c. Local internal call. "Accounting, this is Hermie or Hermie speaking."

d. Secretaries. "Good Morning/Afternoon, Office of Mr. Gomez, this is Sandra, how can I help you?"

2. After the person states his inquiry:

a. Switchboard. "Kindly hold on while I transfer your call to (name of person, department), he/she will be able to assist you." Do not just transfer it immediately without saying anything.

b. Secretaries. Rather than say-

ing "regarding what?" or "what is this about?" or offending the caller by saying "I'll see if he is available" or "I'll see if he is in," the best solution to this problem is to say: Mr. Gomez is in a meeting (whether he is or not), would you like to leave a message and we will call you back." Or, you can say, Mrs. Santos, I'm sorry but Mr. Gomez is unavailable right now, I am Sandra his secretary, may I help you?

That way you get to find out what this person wants without offending them. And at the same time screen your boss' calls and

sounding really efficient.

But remember, always call back when you say you will. If your boss really refuses to talk to this person, call back anyway and say, "I explained the problem to Mr. Gomez, he has asked me to refer you to our Marketing Manager as he will be able to assist you better."

3. Closing

Always thank the caller for calling, even if he is a nightmare client. Remember that without clients/customers, your company is nothing. **Feedback at etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com.**

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Academe's view of RP economy

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE WEEK before the President delivered her State of the Nation Address, civil society gathered its own experts to get their reading. The Caucus of Development NGOs (Code-NGO) spent a whole day reporting on the economy and other concerns.

Presenting the analysis on the economy was the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (Acerd). The following summarizes the lecture of Acerd's Ofelia Templo.

Growth on track

The target for gross domestic product (GDP) was 4 percent to 4.5 percent. The actual 2002 GDP growth rate was 4.4 percent. Gross national product (GNP) that is, GDP plus net remittances) and GNP per capita also exceeded the official targets.

Tracked over time, GNP per capita in real terms (adjusted for inflation) has been climbing. The graph showed a rise in the Aquino years, dropping due to the power crisis, then recovering tremendously in the Ramos administration. The Estrada era line was generally flat, then growth resumed under Macapagal.

Lowest inflation

Inflation was to be kept at the official target band of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. It was at 3.1, the lowest level since 1987.

Interest rate targets were surpassed as well. The band for the 91-day Treasury bill rate was 7-8.0 percent. The rate was only 5.4 percent.

The labor target was 29.2 million employed in 2002. This was surpassed, at 30 million. Job creation targets were exceeded in agriculture and services, but came short in industry. The problem lay in unemployment, whose target band was 9.98 to 10.5 percent of the labor force. The unemployment rate in 2002 broke beyond the targets, at 11.4 percent.

Compare that with the much lower unemployment rates of other countries: 3.7 percent for Malaysia and Indonesia, and 3.2 percent for Thailand.

Congress was able to pass at least four significant laws: The Procurement Act, the law on Anti-Money Laundering, the Absentee Voting Act, and the law on the SPAV: Special Purpose Asset Vehicle. SPAV would help banks sell their non-performing assets at a discount.

However, it failed so far to pass 17 laws that form part of the President's legislative agenda. These are bills on telecommunication convergence, the electrical transmission grid, rationalizing fiscal incentives and amendments to the Bangko Sentral act.

The balance of payments (foreign money flowing in minus the amount flowing out) turned negative in the first quarter of 2003. This was due to tensions in the world scene.

Deficit plague

The GMA Administration fails in fiscal control. The deficit target for 2002 was P130 billion. The actual deficit was P210.7 billion. Tax collection was lacking, and expenditures surpassed set goals.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



Cable TV channels shut for showing sex films

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board is investigating the alleged airing of lewd programs between midnight and 1:30 a.m. on two cable channels operated by Cablelink Inc.

Cablelink cut off the air Channel 42, the Japanese movie channel, and Channel 46 (Star Channel 1) since July 25 after the op-

erator received complaints from the MTRCB and from subscribers in Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Taguig and Cavite.

MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia said a three-member committee has been formed to do the investigation.

The probe body is composed of two MTRCB board members and one lawyer.

In a letter to Laguardia, Cablelink Inc. chief executive officer

(CEO) Leo San Miguel said the cable company has voluntarily cut off for 20 days, since July 25, the programming of the two channels to demonstrate its "sincerest intention to comply" with MTRCB regulations.

Laguardia said the two channels had been airing programs from midnight to 1:30 a.m. showing sex acts.

"Because of the nature of program reception inherent to cable

television programming service, we CATV operators have admittedly been able to receive and exhibit programs whose contents are more explicit and graphic than those of traditional broadcast," wrote Cablelink's San Miguel.

"Unfortunately, we are basically just program re-distributors and do not have any pre-showing censorship control over the content of programs we air."



"GIGLI, as in silly." Lopez and Affleck in the widely panned movie

J. Lo's new movie called 'worst of the century'

NEW YORK—"Gigli" may have put its stars Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck on the path to marital bliss, but the film is also threatening to steer Hollywood's top celebrity couple into career limbo.

The movie opened in US theaters Friday to the sort of gleefully scathing reviews that make the reception given to the recent Madonna-Guy Ritchie shocker "Swept Away" seem positively glowing by comparison.

"The worst movie of our admittedly young century," was the verdict of the Wall Street Journal, which mocked the film's "staggering idiocy and fatuousness."

"The movie has no sense of structure at all, no sense of urgency, no compelling reason to exist or be endured whatsoever," said the Washington Post.

"It's both giggle-free and jiggle-free," the Post said. "Worse, it's enervated, torpid, slack, dreary and, oh yes, brutish and long." Real-life paramours Affleck and Lopez, whose celebrity status has been dubbed the "Bennifer" phenomenon, play a pair of mismatched criminals who kidnapped the mentally handicapped son of a federal prosecutor.

The title of the movie is also the name of Affleck's dim-witted character and, as he explains many times during the film, is pronounced "jee-lee" so as to rhyme with "really."

"As in really, really silly," commented the New York Times, which described the film as a "hopelessly misconceived exercise in celebrity

J. LO'S NEW/C6



CARLO Orosa outs his costumes.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Carlo Orosa blows his Trumpets

/C3

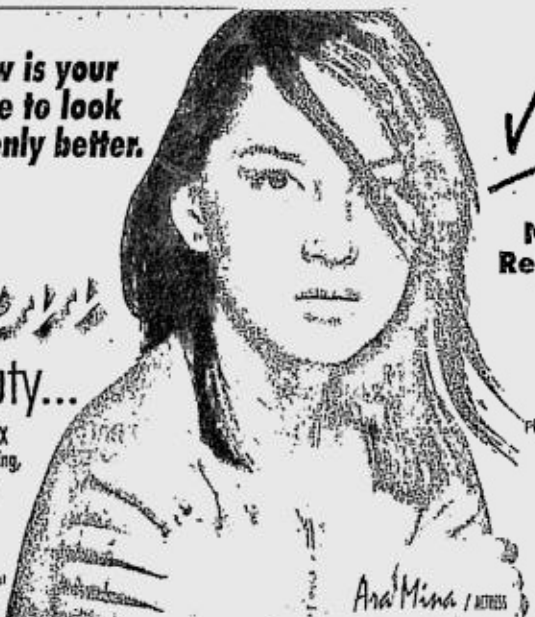


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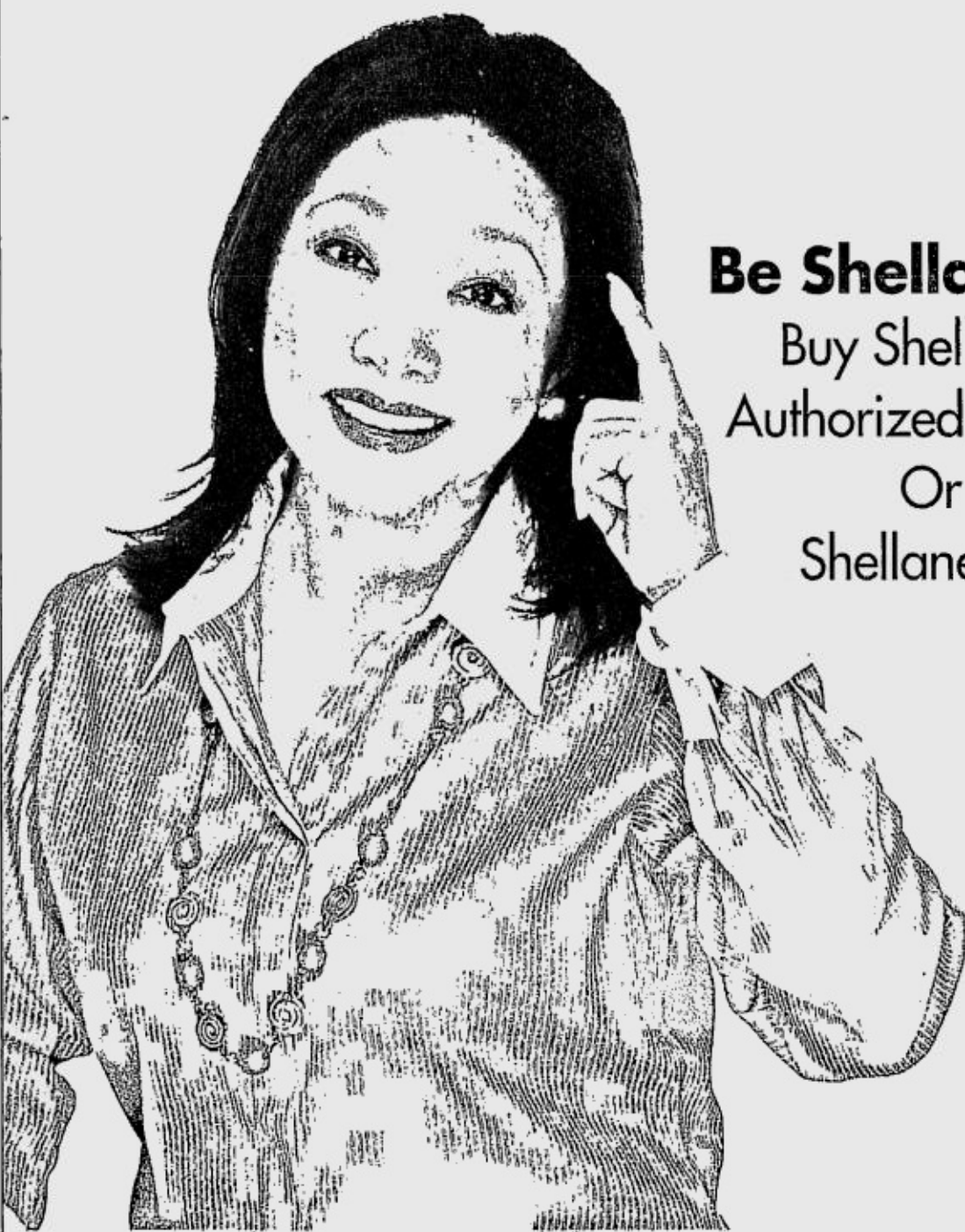


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ENTERTAINMENT

Sidelights and insights

"ABS-CBN Insider," Channel 2's new late-evening newscast, fields the new anchor team of Karen Davila and Cito Beltran, and the attention-calling tagline, "the drama behind the news." We've caught the program a couple of times to see how it is shaping up, and these are our initial notes:

The "insider" part of the package appears to be a welcome slant, because the show does occasionally manage to feature or interview the newsmakers themselves, or people who are part of the event, eyewitnesses, etc.

When newsmakers and eyewitnesses aren't available, the anchors talk to their field reporters to ask them for their impressions, sidelights and insights.

As a result, the news is rendered fresher, more specific and more personalized. This is all to the good, be-

cause to some extent, newsmakers are the news, at least in the sense that their motivations and agendas come to bear on what they do.

But the newscast is less effective when it highlights "the drama behind the news" by excessively stressing the human emotions factor in its stories. This smacks too much of entertainment, and should be resorted to with discretion.

As for the interaction between the two anchors, there's little of that taking place at the moment, as Beltran has his hands full concentrating on making the transition from interviewer to news anchor. That does take some doing.

'Feedback'

FROM Ms Pureza Ramiro Pacis of Vintar, Ilocos Norte, on our features on musical films: "To me, the test of a musical movie is when,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



many years after you have seen it, you can still name that tune!

"I might have seen 'The Sound of Music' for the nth time (the first of which was during my student days in a jam-packed downtown theater), but it never fails to make me cry when Maria (Julie Andrews) requests Capt. Von Trapp (Christopher Plummer) to play the guitar, and when they were dancing the Laendler in the hallway.

"Andrews was at her best singing about her favorite things, lonely goatherds, and hills being alive with the sound of music. Truly, the family that sings to-

gether, stays together.

"A next-best choice is 'Music Man,' where Shirley Jones is just as electrifying. Ah, what faith she (an old maid librarian) had in her man (Dick Van Dyke), who posed as a bandmaster when actually he was not. But he could teach children to love music! Hear 'em play '76 Trombones,' 'Till There Was You,' 'Goodnight, My Love' and other great songs...

"Another timeless favorite is 'Wizard of Oz,' which catapulted Judy Garland to stardom. In search of happiness, Dorothy journeys to Emerald City with her dog, the scarecrow who didn't have any brains, and the lion who had no heart—only to find out that happiness may not be found at the end of the rainbow, but it may just be in your own backyard.

"Still another classic is 'Fiddler on the Roof,' where there is nobody

with greater faith in God than Tevye (Topol), who talks to Him as if He were a friend. A simple man, he and his wife had four daughters, each one getting married under different circumstances. It is from this movie that the theme song 'Sunrise, Sunset' for weddings and anniversaries has been lifted.

"Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'South Pacific,' which stars Mitzi Gaynor as a nurse and Rossano Brazzi as a Frenchman with a past he wants to forget, has songs that are lilting ('There Is Nothing Like a Dame,' 'Happy Talk'), and enchantingly romantic ('Some Enchanted Evening,' 'Bali Hai').

"And when, at the end of the movie, Brazzi suddenly reappeared when everyone thought he had not survived his mission during wartime, you couldn't help but rejoice with his two kids and their new mom."

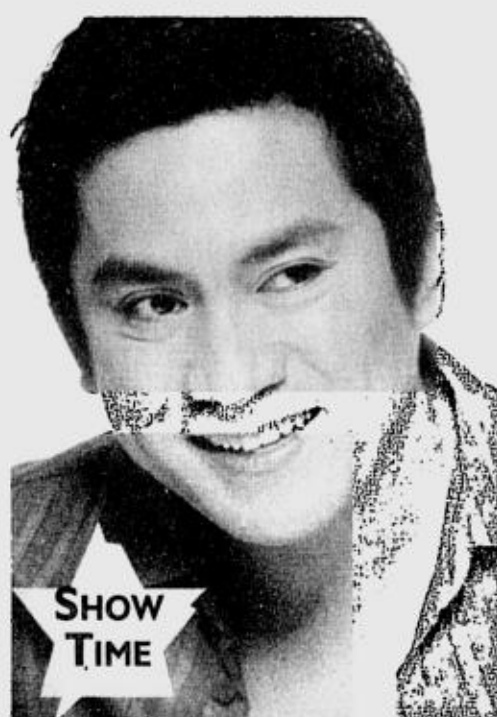
(To be concluded)

'Licad opens MPO season'

SAINT-SAENS' Second Concerto, as interpreted by Cecile Licad, opens the maiden season of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Rodel Colmenar on Aug. 16 at the Philamlife Theater. A solo recital follows on Aug. 20 at the same venue.

The last time Licad played the concerto with the Madison Symphony in the United States, Michael Mukian wrote in the Capitol Times, "Licad's performance set a new standard by which all guest artists will be judged. Nothing in recent memory compares to her impassioned playing."

After her performances in Manila, Licad will have solo recitals in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija and at St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City. Call 705-178 for details.



SENA promises "music. that touches my soul"

Robert Seña performs in his dream of a show

LONG before his string of acclaimed performances in local and international theater, Robert Seña had always dreamed of mounting his own solo concert.

The concept was simple: Recreate the sights and sounds of the nostalgic '40s of swing and big bands. These were the sounds popularized by Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller, and which heralded the birth of such legendary crooners such as Mel Tormé, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett.

Robert admits being drawn to the big band sounds, and the more challenging phrasing and technique of his idols, best exemplified by Sinatra and his "rat pack."

"It's music that touches my soul," says Robert. "The standards, swing, that big band thing. I love the way the lyrics and melodies blend together. They don't write those kinds of songs anymore."

Robert sings his favorite music in his much awaited solo concert on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Music Museum. Dubbed "Showtime," the show recreates the pomp and grandeur of the swing era. "It's not entirely big band music all the way," Robert says, "and there's a good mix of songs from other genres."

Joining Robert are special guests Joel Torre and Richard Merk.

Though most of his fans have long been clamoring for a solo show, Robert set aside such plans for artistic reasons. "I normally don't do projects just to make me look busy or more visible," he says. "On the other hand, this show is what I've been dreaming of ever since my 'Miss Saigon' days. I've had offers to do solo concerts before, but I never liked the concept. But this time, with this kind of music and the right artistic team behind me, I think we have a good show."

Over the years, Robert nurtured lasting working relationships with his fellow performers, such as session musicians, stage performers and dancers. Robert deemed it fitting to spotlight their collective talents in an off-beat production number. "Ampy Sieterales, Ariel Reonal, Andy Alviz, Jaime del Prado, Gerard Mendoza and many others are soloists in their own right," he says. "Their spots are definitely something to look forward to."

He'll sing his personal favorites, such as "Fly Me to the Moon," "Come Fly with Me" and other Sinatra classics, as well as excerpts from his latest album, including "Impossible Dream," "Lately," "Our Father," "I Believe" and "Ikaw pa Rin Sinta." He will also sing "Pity the Child," "La Donna e Mobile," "O Sole Mio," "Soy Yo" and other favorites from different musical genres.

For inquiries, e-mail prodcore@tristys.com or robertseña@robertseña.com. Tickets are available at Music Museum 721-6762 or Ticketworld outlets 891-5610.

1st Asian to play heroine in 'Les Miz'

"FANTINE is a woman full of hope and positivity," she says. "She has so much love to offer. While rehearsing, the director keeps reminding me of the words 'calm' and 'dignified,' which are the other characteristics Fantine possesses. This musical has a lot of heavy drama and I just love getting to know her story."

Of her diverse roles in theater, Joanna Ampil says, "They all taught me something about life. This is one of the perks you get as an actress. You get to experience someone else's life and become the role."

Joanna was vacationing in Baguio City in her native country when she first heard about the "Les Miz" part. She was all set to embark on a recording career in Manila, with an offer from PolyEast, but West End once again beckoned.

She has been showered with acclaim and accolades in the world's most prestigious theaters, and yet she is yearning to hear applause from her fellow Filipinos.

"I have done a few performances back home (like the 1998 Philippine Centennial."

Celebration at the Expo-Filipino Clark)," she says, "and being able to establish a career there would be a wonderful thing. I'm just waiting for the big break."

She insists that even after a decade of living abroad, she has remained very family-oriented, very sentimental, and very devout, just like most Filipinos. Newly married to advertising creative director Alvi Siongco, she says she has no dream left unfulfilled, except perhaps "having kids someday."



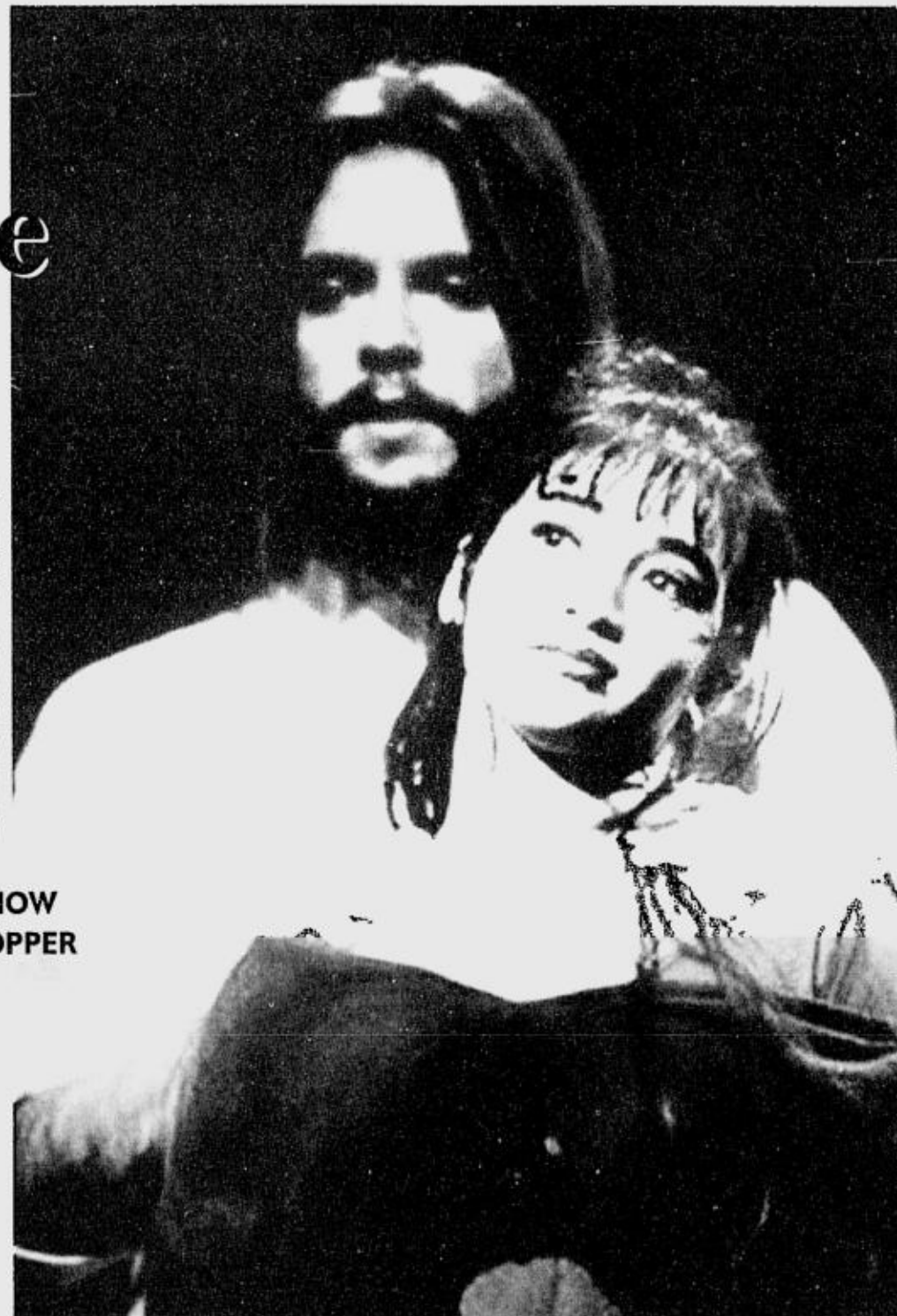
JOANNA Ampil

CRITICS and audiences alike have hailed Joanna Ampil as one of the best Kims to have played the "Miss Saigon" role on the international stage. And yet little is known about Joanna in her home country.

Since making her debut in "Miss Saigon" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London a decade ago when she was just 17, Joanna has accomplished a number of other achievements.

She played Kim in Sydney, Australia, in the 10th anniversary presentation at the Drury Lane, and in the UK-Ireland Tour. She also sang the role of Kim in the complete international symphonic recording of "Miss Saigon."

She has also portrayed some of the most fascinating female lead characters in musical theater: Mary Magdalene in "Jesus Christ Superstar," Princess Jasmine in "Aladdin," and Eponine in the 15th anniversary production of "Les Misérables."



AT 17, she was Kim in "Miss Saigon" at London's West End

She will be the first Asian to play the French role

Joanna takes on another challenge as she plays the role of Fantine in the latest production of "Les Miz" at the Palace Theater at London's West End. She will be the first Asian to play the role of a French heroine that is traditionally played by blonde Caucasians in the history of the long-running musical.

"I feel very thrilled to be back in the show and this time playing the role of Fantine," Joanna enthuses. "I am very honored to be

the first Asian, non-traditional Fantine, and for this, I am truly grateful to Cameron Mackintosh for the opportunity."

After handily winning the role in an audition in London, Joanna was deep in rehearsals for the show, which is running for a whole year, from July 28, 2003, to June 26, 2004.

"We started rehearsing last June 23 and I am having a great time," Joanna relates by e-mail.

'Pitlag' bags NY Festivals Award for 2nd year

A YEAR after getting a Finalist Award for Best Regularly Scheduled Drama Category, the Philippines' very own Pathways Productions bagged a Bronze World Medal for Best Radio Information Program in History in this year's New York Festivals for its drama-forum episode "Desaparecidos, Silang mga Nawawala."

Produced by UP Professor Teresita G. Maceda and former PIA director general Garth Noel Tolentino, "Pitlag! Kuwento ng Buhay, Isyu ng Bayan" innovates on the traditional radio drama and presents socio-political issues woven into personal experiences of the common Filipino. The Pitlag episode "Desaparecidos" tells the story of people forcibly taken by alleged agents of the state during Martial Law.

"It is about a part of the history of human rights violations in the Philippines not commonly discussed in mainstream media and not even in our classrooms," says Tolentino.

Considered the Oscars of the radio industry, the New York Festivals is known for its stringent standards and the stiff competition among entries that come from all over the world. Usually winning the

awards in the different categories are BBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and other radio networks from developed countries such as the US, UK, the Netherlands, Germany and Canada. Independent media producers seldom make it, much less programs from Asia or South America.

This year, the US may have dominated the Radio Information Program category, which "Pitlag" entered, but the Philippine-produced drama-forum remains the only Asian radio program to have gained recognition in the prestigious New York Festivals radio awards.

"Not all categories produce world medalists," explains Maceda. "For instance, in the best regularly scheduled drama category last year, no gold or silver was awarded."

Canadian Broadcasting Corp. got a bronze while the Pathways entry, "Giyera sa Dibdib ni Nana Dolor," a drama-forum on the social cost of the war in Mindanao, and the entry of Radio Peru were the only two finalists for Best Regularly Scheduled Drama.

"Non-English programs are required to submit a detailed summary and an English translation of their

entry," says Maceda. "While language may be a disadvantage, entries are judged by an international board of judges for sound quality, creative use of medium and other production values."

Anchored by lawyer Rodolfo Ferdinand "Jun" Quicho, a public interest environmental lawyer, the forum portion of the "Pitlag" episode brought together human rights advocates Socorro Diokno, Bonifacio Ilang and Louie Crismo to discuss the issue of human rights and the role of the state in the issue of the disappeared.

The winning entry of "Pitlag" was written by Danilo Jaime Flores and directed by Alfredo Lazarte. Editing and music score was by Froilan Malimban and research by Kalon Tariman. Weaving the segments together is Jess Santiago's powerful song "Huling Balita."

"Desaparecidos" was aired on Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) last Dec. 2 to 6, 2002.

"Pitlag: Kuwento ng Buhay, Isyu ng Bayan" is aired via satellite, Monday to Friday, 4-4:30 p.m. through RMN 558 RMN News Manila and 24 other RMN radio stations nationwide.

Freestyle performs in Kadayawan

THE FREESTYLE band will hold a concert titled "The Freestyle Kadayawan Show" on Aug. 16 at The Venue, Davao City's largest and hottest party destination.

The band has always been one of the crowd drawers at The Venue, which is sponsoring the event together with

Smart Communications. Co-sponsors of the event are the NCC Department Store, Mega Graphics, Caltex, Coca-Cola, Dream Party Shop, Overdrive, Express Tire and Luke, 93.1 Crossover, 89.1 Killer Bee and 94.7 Mellow Touch.



REFLECTIONS of a singer-actor and minister take place in his Mandaluyong condo unit that's a "step toward manhood."

Carlo Orosa blows his

By Marinel R. Cruz
and Irene Andrea C. Perez

HE TRIED to be a pop star but never quite became as big as his contemporary, Gary Valenciano. But Carlo Orosa, one of Philippine entertainment's underrated artists, has got more talent than 10 young upstarts combined.

In 1986, Carlo co-founded the Triumphant People's Evangelistic Society, better known as Trumpets, and since then has been a moving force behind the theater company.

"Trumpets has been my home," says Carlo. "I've been involved since its conception. Now I'm with the board. I'm also into marketing, sponsorship and PR."

He also teaches acting, directs events and preaches the Gospel.

He has been inclined to the arts as early as high school when he joined the famous La Salle Greenhills singing group, Kundirana, in 1982. It was there where he forged a friendship with schoolmate Gary V, who later inspired him to break into the mainstream.

Carlo later took up advertising at the University of Sto. Tomas and is a thesis short of a degree.

He joined bands and eventually tried his luck as a solo performer, even cutting a solo album. He has been a born-again Christian since 1989.

Among other stage roles, he gave powerful performances as Jacob's youngest son, Benjamin, in "Joseph, the Dreamer," and as Jewel's friend, Nicodemus, in "Little Mermaid." He starred in several telemovies and sitcoms but has not done a movie.

Artist and minister

"I'm very particular about the projects I do," he explains. "I'm not only an artist, I'm also a minister. I have to set a good example. Not that I'm judging other actors."

Although movies generally have more following than theater, Carlo has high hopes about bringing theater, particularly mu-



WEIRD WEAR. The ladies' shirt was a Christmas gift, meant "for someone else, I hope!"

sicals, to the masses. He and the rest of Trumpets know that many people want to see plays, such as "Rama at Sita" or even "Miss Saigon," but not everyone can afford to see these.

Trumpets brings smaller plays to barangays, where actors often have to make do with a basketball court for a stage. These plays are usually done in Filipino and are well received, proving that art appreciation knows no social class, says Carlo.

From Aug. 1 to Sept. 11, Carlo puts on a duckling costume and performs in the Trumpets production of "Honk!"

"Honk!" is a modern remake of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, "The Ugly Duckling." Trumpets brought the musical to the country after Trumpets co-founder and president Audie Gemora saw it in Singapore. It has three Best Musical honors, from the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award, the FNB Vita Award in South Africa and Elliot Norton Award in the US. The Philippine premiere last week was simultaneous with LA's.

Blooming into a swan

Carlo alternates with Franco Laurel in the lead role of Ugly, the

aesthetically challenged duckling shunned by his siblings because he honks instead of quacks.

"I was an ugly duckling, too," Carlo confesses. "I was really thin. I was always envious of other boys who were bigger."

He says "Honk!" is not just for kids but for adults as well and it has a strong message about identity.

"I can relate to the role because as artists, we are always judged by how we perform and look," he says.

"I feel like I've also bloomed into a swan with my involvement in Trumpets," says Carlo. "My knowledge as an actor helps me direct other actors. During summer, I hold workshops for kids. My experiences help make me become a better person, a well-rounded person. A swan, if you will."

("Honk!" runs at the Meralco Theater until Sept. 11.)

INQUIRER Entertainment earlier visited Carlo's condo unit in Mandaluyong City and peered into his closet.

Carlo moved to the condo unit from his parent's house in Cainta, Rizal, as "my first step toward manhood." Living away from them, he said, has helped him grow as a person.

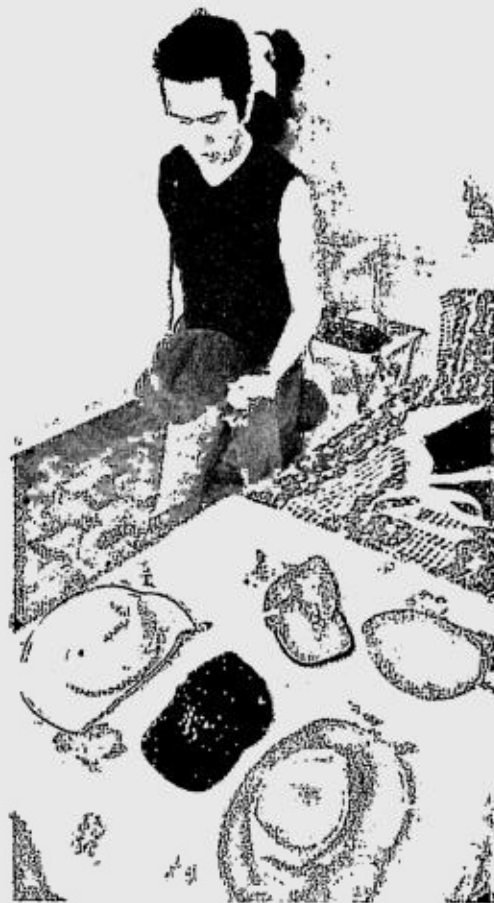
OUT OF THE CLOSET

'I can do anything with this house without having to ask permission from anyone,' he says, but admits he designed it with 'a little help from my mom, of course'

PHOTOS BY
JIM GUIAO
PUNZALAN



SOMETHING BORROWED. His popular, often-borrowed Barong Tagalog



HEAD MAN wears hats from Paris to Butuan.

"I'm independent now," he said. "I can do anything with this house without having to ask permission from anyone." But he also admitted that in designing his unit, he had "a little help from my mom, of course."

To maximize space, Carlo built drawers under his bed, where he puts his old costumes, scripts and wallpapers. His ironing board can be folded so that it can hold magazines, books and newspapers.

One closet contains his personal computer, while a smaller one by his bedside holds most of his hardware tools.

The biggest closet, which has three decks, is where he keeps his jackets, tanks, shorts and socks, and gifts from friends, including the weirdest gift he got for Christmas—a red ladies' shirt. "I think it was meant for someone else," said Carlo. "I hope!"

Polo-shirt. "My uncle gave me this Positano shirt when he came back from the States a year ago. He said, 'Carlo, wear this. Ricky Martin look 'yan!' It glitters when you look at it at a certain angle."

Charcoal portrait. "This was sent to me by a fan from the States as a birthday gift. I was surprised when I received a package from her. I think she has a crush on me."

Long-sleeved shirt. "I like this because I get a lot of compliments when I wear it. It's by Pichita, a designer from Thailand. It's unique. Its fabric looks like crumpled paper and it's shiny. Pichita designs clothes for the queen of Thailand."

Barong Tagalog. "I had it made for the wedding of a friend. My mother bought the fabric for me. It's organza. My friends like it so much that some of them even borrow it."

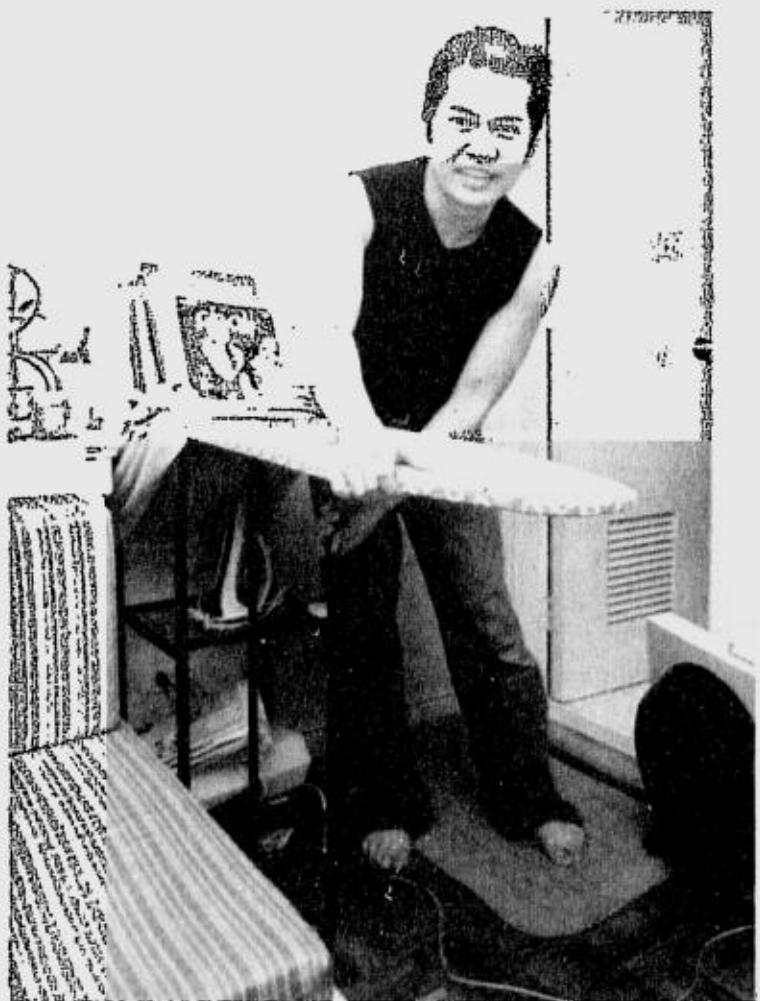
Sleeveless shirt. "I like to wear this especially during summer. I bought this in Hong Kong four years ago. I like it because the fabric feels comfortable."

Suit. "I first wore this suit in 1997 when I did 'Grease' in Brunei. It's still okay. Retro-look nga lang, so hindi na uso. I think its color is copper. Pichita designed this, too."

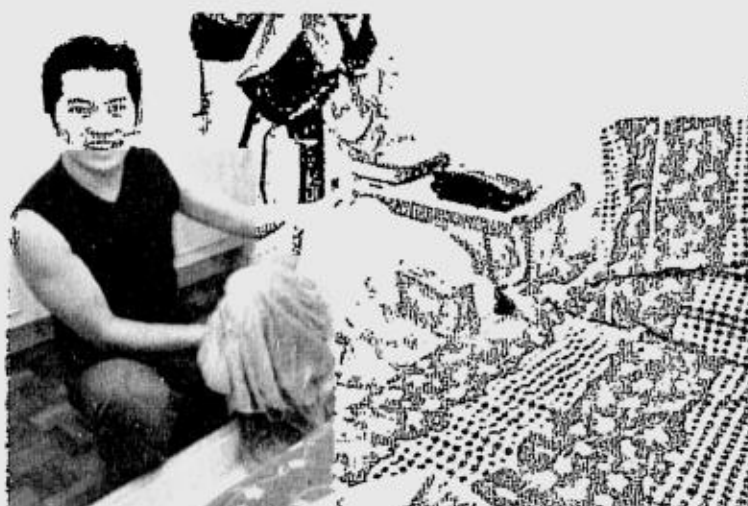
Mugs. "I get a lot of mugs as gifts. I don't know why. They're nice, though. A lot of them I use, but some of them I give to other friends, especially those I forget to buy birthday gifts for."

Used cassette tapes. "We don't use tapes nowadays but I still save them. I have tapes here of when I sang with Sharon (Cuneta) and Gary (Valenciano).

CARLO/C6



UP AND DOWN, ironing board hides a magazine rack.



MONSTERS under the bed they're not, but drawers to hold old costumes.



BASKET CASE. He admits he's not into socks, and wears even old ones with holes

Kirk:
Michael
is a better
father than
I was
because
he loves
to spend
more time
with his
family.
I was away
from home
too often



FUN AND GAMES. Cameron (right) says he felt surrounded by love and support in acting for the first time with his father Michael and grandpa Kirk

Michael
(on Kirk):
He was
away,
he was
working.
He did
the best
he could,
which
wasn't
great.
I worked,
too, when
Cameron
was a boy

Laughter, tears with the Douglasses

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—It's not every day that one gets teased by Spartacus himself.

Kirk Douglas, Hollywood titan, larger than life even in person at 86 and valiantly ignoring a speech impairment as a result of a life-threatening stroke, asked me: "You want to talk to him, too?"

"Him" is Cameron Douglas, Kirk's 24-year-old grandson who is a third generation of the acting Douglasses. Cameron, son of Oscar winner Michael Douglas, had been sitting quietly while his legendary grandpa regaled a group of seven journalists with stories at a hotel suite until one finally threw a question at him.

Kirk, Michael and Cameron were appearing onscreen together for the first time in "It Runs in the Family," playing members of an American family that Filipinos can relate to. Although they portrayed a clan living in New York (Rory Culkin and Bernadette Peters also star), they could be any Pinoy family that squabbles but underneath the conflicts, they love and support each other.

Like the Grombergs they played in the film, the three men, plus Diana Douglas, Michael's mother whom Kirk divorced 53 years ago (more than half a century ago), who starred as the matriarch, have laughed and cried together. In this freewheeling exclusive interview with the INQUIRER, they talked about those moments. Here, in their own words, are glimpses of the highs and lows of being part of a revered Hollywood acting family.

Kirk and Cameron Douglas

Kirk: "In one scene in the film, I said to Michael, 'You know you're a much better father than I was.' And he said with a smile, 'Well, Dad, you didn't raise the bar very high.' That was true. I thought a lot about that line. Michael is a better father than I was because he loves to spend more time with his family. I made three or four movies a year. I was away from home too often. Michael handled that much better than I did."

Cameron: "My dad's a really good guy. When I was younger and his career was just starting, he was a busy guy. But he has a whole lot of love for me and he shows it. He has always been there for me and supportive."

Kirk: "Cameron, like his father, is independent. Once I said to Michael when he was young, 'Michael, you never ask me for anything.' When he went to college, I gave him money, too, but he never asked. I said, 'You are insulting. I'm your father.' Years later, there was a big new car in my driveway with a ribbon. When I looked at the card on the car, I recognized the handwriting. Michael wrote, 'Dear Dad, you always say I never ask for anything but you gave me a lot. Love, Michael.'"

"My life changed first when I had the helicopter crash (in 1991). I was crippled.

pled. And two young people got killed. I was in the hospital thinking, why am I alive? So I began to take inventory. Who am I with, where I came from, where am I going? That was a turning point in my life. And then I had my stroke."

"I like myself better now. I'm a better person."

"I believe my stroke did so much for me really as a person. An actor who can't talk? What does he do? Wait for silent pictures to come back? That's why I wrote a book to help other people. I can walk now. It's not easier but I can play golf; only nine holes though."

"I'm going to propose to my wife next year on our 50th anniversary. She might say, 'Hey, wait a minute, I had enough of you.' If she says yes, I'm going to have a wedding almost as big as the one Michael had with Catherine (Zeta-Jones). That was a big wedding!"

On whether he has been faithful to his wife Anne all these years (he was linked to such screen goddesses as Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth and Lauren Bacall): He laughs then sings: "I beg your pardon, I never promised you a rose garden." Still laughing, he adds, "I refuse to answer that question. I plead the Fifth!"

Cameron (on the daunting task of acting for the first time with his father and grandparents, veteran actors all): "I wasn't sure what to expect. How we were going to interact, how much time we're working together, how I was to move myself. Having genuine love and support around me for taking on something like this was so helpful."

"I'm going to continue working at it (acting). I'll give it my best shot."

Kirk (on why it took so long for him and Michael to make a film together): "First, for many years, we were not that close. Then I was so occupied with making movies. Then we started talking

about a movie. It's not that easy to find the right script. When Michael found the script for 'It Runs in the Family,' we said, this is it, so we finally made a movie."

"I told Michael, 'You have created a miracle. Imagine three generations in one picture, plus my ex-wife!'"

On whether he watches his movies and how he reacts when he sees his young, muscular self: "I don't watch many of my movies. But one time I came home and I saw myself on a movie being shown on TV. They showed me in a close-up. I looked closer. It was Michael! I think I'm too young to be looking back at my movies. And now that I have found a new star (puts an arm around Cameron), you notice how I suck up to him."

"(To Cameron) When you make movies, how about a part for an old guy with sloppy speech? I have the monopoly for an old guy with a speech impairment."

Cameron (on the best acting advice that his grandfather and father have given him): "My grandfather's advice is to show up on time. More important than that, I just absorbed how my grandfather, father and grandmother acted. I learned so much everyday just watching them do their scenes."

Kirk (already planning a sequel): "In my version, Michael will be running for public office and I, his father, will be running against him."

Michael Douglas

On seeing a tender side of Kirk in the last decade: "Oh yeah, we all did. Even him! (Laughs.) He has changed. He's a different man. A few years ago, he said, 'You know son, we're finally getting along, we're finally getting close. It's nice, you don't really have any more hostilities, you've really changed towards me.' I said, 'Dad, did you ever think that maybe you changed?'"

"He has changed. Everybody, including his friends, will tell you. Between his helicopter crash when he was 70 to now, this stroke he had. He's a different man."

But out of it, he's a much better man. He's the inspiration on how you lead the last chapter you life."

On finally making a movie with Kirk: "It is a complete feeling. This experience is more than I can ever imagine. It has brought us all together. There's not a lot of 24-year-old kids who want to hang out with their grandparents."

"Forget their father. This has brought us really close. I enjoyed the times we had on the picture when we have finished a scene and just sat around. There was a wonderful opportunity to have three months together that we never would have had."

"Because the trouble is, you always think about your family when it's too late. You have guilt after you've lost your mother, you've lost your father. You wish you said something or done something. Being on the set gave us that feeling of being complete. We had that bonding together."

On having Kirk for a dad: "His story was that his father never gave him a pat on the back. My parents got divorced so young and I would only see my father on rare occasions or when he was working. I'd go visit him on holidays. So when I was with him, he felt, 'Okay, I'm guilty, I'm going to be a father.'"

"He tries to be a father. He teaches, he's tough. He tries too hard. He gives advice, he tries to be father and all that. Although he's genuinely supportive, it's not a life he knows. He was away, he was working. He did the best he could, which wasn't great. I worked, too, when Cameron was growing up. I told Cameron, my father made 86 movies, I've done 30 so I was around. I was married to your mother (Diandra) the whole time you were growing up."

On his relationship with Cameron: "I think through working together on this film, it changed. We got mutual respect. We began to understand more the process and I was just proud that he was showing up on time. He wasn't late and he did a good job. You can begin to see the transition going from a young man to an adult assuming responsibilities."

"He's had his share of s-t (Cameron was arrested in 1999 for possession of cocaine). He's had a pretty tough go. He took the hard way to go. As a parent, you have certain responsibilities and you could say, well, did you succeed or fail? But I'm believing now that your influence as a parent is gone by the time your kid is 15, 16. You like to think that you have some influence but no."

"But as far as the other issues, I did a movie called 'Traffic' sometime ago. I played an anti-drug czar whose daughter was doing drugs. So you're finding that you could blame yourself a little but it's the peer group; they're the ones who influence your kid the most."

On starting a second family with Catherine Zeta-Jones, who is 25 years his junior: "It's easier to have a second family 25 years later. When Cameron was born, I was just starting to establish myself as an actor after 'The China Syndrome' and 'Romancing the Stone.' I was very involved in my career and trying to succeed and probably did not spend as much time with Cameron as he would have liked or I would have liked."

On being UN's messenger of peace: "I work in the area of disarmament. For instance, like today, I can talk about a movie and then change the subject to the good work that the United Nations does and the concerns in the areas of weapons of mass destruction. I just came back from Sierra Leone. We did a documentary on child soldiers. It's a worldwide problem. I narrated it on camera."

On the family Oscars (he has two, for producing the 1976 best picture "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and for best actor for "Wall Street"): "Catherine's Oscar is in Bermuda (where they have a vacation house). It's been sitting at the dining table every meal. Our little boy Dylan is so funny."

He has been saying, 'Hi, Oscar!'

"My Oscars are in New York (where they live). Catherine said though that she's gonna put up her Oscar with my Oscars, with hers slightly forward."

On Kirk saying that not starring in "One Flew" was his biggest disappointment: "Oh yeah! I was very aware of that. Nobody could make you feel more guilty than your father."

Diana Douglas

On working with Kirk then and now: "Back then we were much younger, more impatient. Shortly after our divorce, I was in his first picture under his own production company. He was very nervous about it. So he was a bit officious, I felt (laughs). We had no difficulty on this one though because Michael is the producer. He's a good one—very efficient. He didn't interfere with us in our performances. After all, Fred Schepisi is an excellent director."

On the moment when she felt that Kirk became proud of Michael: "I can pinpoint exactly the moment. We went through a time when Kirk and I weren't speaking to each other and we weren't all that friendly. Kirk called my late husband and asked him, 'Is Diana still mad at me? It would be lovely if we could get together to celebrate Michael being up for Oscar for 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.'"

"My husband said no, she's not mad anymore, so Kirk said, please come over for dinner. It was an absolutely lovely dinner. The whole family was there and everybody toasted with champagne."

"Michael got up and made a toast, 'Here's to my parents, we'll see if they get an Oscar for their performance here tonight.'"



3 GENERATIONS. Michael, Kirk and Cameron

Dish serves up smorgasbord of music and magic in August



NINA

ACOUSTIC balladeer Jimmy Bondoc will perform with Nina, "the whistling diva," on Aug. 13 at Dish at the Power Plant Mall.

Cris Villonco's debut concert will be held on Aug. 14. She will be joined by her special guests, Jose Mari Chan, 17:28 and Johnny Velasquez of the Spirit of '67.

Freestyle will have a show on Aug.

20 while Dingdong Avanzado will begin his "Akoostic Live" bar tour on Aug. 22.

Scheduled to perform on Aug. 27 are Paolo Santos and Pido with Take One.

Enjoy the soulful music of Mulatto every Monday of August. Reminisce the glorious days of the '60s and '70s with the Spirit of '67 every Tuesday.

"SOP's" Malik takes center stage ev-

ery Wednesday starting Aug. 6.

Expect an all-out '80s party atmosphere every Thursday with Rage Band's rendition of your favorite hits from the era.

Fridays truly come alive as Pido with Take One performs with Jay-R, another "SOP" host, on Aug. 15, and Arnee Hidalgo on Aug. 8 and 29.

It's going to be a very special night

every Saturday as Nyoy Volante and his Mannos deliver great music with 604 on Aug. 16 and 30.

Volante will perform with the South Border on Aug. 8, while 604 will join South Border on Aug. 23.

Sundays come alive as Dish presents "Dish Family Get-together" on Aug. 10, with professional magicians to surprise guests.

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2 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)	2 TOMB RAIDER 2	2 FINDING NEMO (Adv. Screenings)	2 BAD BOYS II	2 BAD BOYS II
3 TOMB RAIDER 2	3 DOWN WITH LOVE	3 APD KIXING SOCIETY & HOTDOG - BACK 2 BACK Aug. 28 - 9PM	3 BULLETPROOF MONK	3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 BAD BOYS II	4 BAD BOYS II	4 BULLETPROOF MONK	4 BAD BOYS II	4 BAD BOYS II

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

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Filinvest	Gotesco City	Cinema 2000 Target Mall
1 TERMINATOR-3	1 BAD BOYS-2	1 BAD BOYS-2
2 BAD BOYS-2	2 TOMB RAIDER-2	2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 TOMB RAIDER-2	3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS	3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 BAD BOYS-2	4 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)	4 BAD BOYS-2
5 BAD BOYS-2	5 BULLETPROOF MONK	5 TOMB RAIDER-2
6 BAD BOYS-2	6 BAD BOYS-2	6 BAD BOYS-2
7 BULLETPROOF MONK	7 DOWN WITH LOVE	7 BULLETPROOF MONK
8 DOWN WITH LOVE	8 DARK WATER	8 DARK WATER
9 DARK WATER	9 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)	9 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
10 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)		

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Paraisque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE	2 RESERVE	3 RESERVE	4 RESERVE	5 RESERVE	6 RESERVE
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Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel. 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS	2 BAD BOYS-2	3 TOMB RAIDERS-2
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starmall Movies (Mandaluyong) tel. 724.4986

1 BAD BOYS-2	2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS	3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG	4 TOMB RAIDER-2	5 WILD BUTTERFLY
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METROPOLIS (Alabang) tel. 850.4285

1 TOMB RAIDER-2	2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG	3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS	4 BULLETPROOF MONK	5 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)	6 BAD BOYS-2
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PREMIERE (Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel. (047) 237.7007

1 TERMINATOR-3	2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. (Las Pinas) tel. 873.5004

1 BAD BOYS-2	2 SEX & ZEN-2
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FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS (Alabang) tel. 821.8242.8400

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS	2 MASAMANG UGAT	3 BULLETPROOF MONK	4 BAD BOYS-2	5 BAD BOYS-2	6 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)	7 TOMB RAIDER-2
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Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel. 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TOMB RAIDER-2	2 BAD BOYS-2	3 XEREX
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2 FINDING NEMO	2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BAD BOYS 2	3 FINDING NEMO
4 TERMINATOR 3	4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 BULLETPROOF MONK	6 TERMINATOR 3
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	7 TOMB RAIDER 2
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2	8 BAD BOYS 2
	9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
	10 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW (Cebu) 9350749

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2	4 BAD BOYS 2	5 TERMINATOR 3	6 BULLETPROOF MONK	7 FINDING NEMO	8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	9 BANGKOK HAUNTED	10 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	11 MASAMANG UGAT	12 BAD BOYS 2
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SM CITY MANILA (Manila) 5239240

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	2 BULLETPROOF MONK	3 FINDING NEMO	4 BAD BOYS 2	5 TERMINATOR 3	6 BAD BOYS 2	7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	10 BANGKOK HAUNTED	11 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2	12 DARK WATER
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SM MEGAMALL (Cebu) 6331501 • 6329401

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	2 BAD BOYS 2	3 THE HUNTED	4 BAD BOYS 2	5 DARK WATER	6 TERMINATOR 3	7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	8 DOWN WITH LOVE	9 BULLETPROOF MONK	10 BANGKOK HAUNTED	11 FINDING NEMO	12 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
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SM CITY NORTH EDSA (Quezon City) 9235452

1 BAD BOYS 2	2 TERMINATOR 3	3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	4 DARK WATER	5 BULLETPROOF MONK	6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	7 FINDING NEMO	8 BAD BOYS 2
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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (Cagayan de Oro) 859-2884

1 BAD BOYS 2	2 MUNTING TINIG	3 DEATH WATCH	4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
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THE PODIUM CINEMA (Cebu) 633-8976

1 FINDING NEMO	2 BAD BOYS 2	3 TERMINATOR 3	4 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS	5 DARK WATER	6 BULLETPROOF MONK	7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE	8 FINDING NEMO	9 BAD BOYS 2	10 WILD BUTTERFLY
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 Matinee: P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
 Regular Rate: P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

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2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00	2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	2 DOWN WITH LOVE 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45	3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45	3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45	3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00	3 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	3 DOWN WITH LOVE 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	3 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	3 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	3 BANGKOK HAUNTED 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	3 JACKASS THE MOVIE 10:15, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 BANGKOK HAUNTED 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	4 WILD BUTTERFLY 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Search for best amateur bands at Robinsons



"JAMMIN' the Mall," the search for the most talented amateur band, will be held at Robinsons Malls. The search will take place at Robinsons Star-mills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East and Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa.

Only amateur bands can join the competition. For the elimination round, each group must submit a demo material containing three songs in video, CD or cassette format. Entry forms are available at the information counter of all participating Robinsons malls.

Contestants are requested to submit their demo material, accomplished entry form and other requirements, all placed in a brown envelope, not later than Aug. 11, to the information counter of participating Robinsons malls.

A committee will pre-screen the entries. The names of bands that will qualify for the grand finals will be posted at the information counter or the main entrance of participating Robinsons malls.

The grand finals will be held on the following Saturdays at these venues: Aug. 16, the fountain areas of Robinsons Place Star-mills Pampanga and Robinsons Place Imus; Aug. 23, the central atrium of Robinsons Novaliches; and Sept. 6, the fountain areas of Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa and Robinsons Metro East.

Popular bands will be the special guests during these mall shows, which start at 4 p.m.

A cash prize of P10,000 plus a certificate of excellence await each winning group.

For more details, call the Ad & Promo Department at these numbers: 633-7641 locals 175 and 176, or 632-7672.

Carlo Orosa blows his...

From page C3

Production outfits used to record the show on tapes. Now they use CDs.

Traveling suit. "I wear this when I go abroad because the fabric is thicker. Would you believe that I bought this for only P1,000 at Linea Italia? I like buying cheap stuff."

Necktie. "This is my favorite because it's satin and the color is baby blue. I can match it with almost all of my suits. It's by Randy Ortiz. *Gandang-ganda na talaga ako* the first time I saw it."

Costumes. "I keep some of my '80s costumes in the drawer under my bed. I don't throw them away because I might be able to find use for them in our future productions."

Hats. "I bought some of my hats during my travels while some were given to me by friends, like this one from Paris, given to me by a Filipino friend in Malaysia because she knew that I needed it as a costume."

"I bought this other hat in Butuan, to replace that hat from Paris, which is so worn out already."

Candles. "A lot of the candles in my collection were given by friends. But I also buy some. The cute ones, I myself bought."

Socks. "I keep them in a plastic basket along with other undergarments. I'm not really into socks. In fact, I still use socks with holes."

Hardware tools. "I put all my tools like wrenches, hammers and pliers together in one cabinet. They come in handy when I have to fix broken appliances."

J. Lo's new...

From page C1

self-worship."

Affleck and Lopez were reportedly paid a combined fee of \$25 million to star in the film, which sparked a real-life romance between the two A-listers who are now engaged.

"They earn their money by hogging as much screen time as possible and uttering some of the lamest dialogue ever committed to film," said the Times.

The Los Angeles Times argued that the "Gigli" was "nearly as unwatchable as it is unpronounceable," and added that it "would stink even without its big-ticket stars."

Several reviewers underscored the unintentionally prophetic nature of one line by Lopez's character when, during a seduction scene, she lies on a bed and says: "It's turkey time."

"Gigli" is the rare movie that never seems to take off, but also never seems to end," said USA Today, whose final verdict on the film was "no big deal-y."

Even cameo appearances by Hollywood stalwarts Christopher Walken and a ranting Al Pacino were dismissed by the critics, with the New York Daily News suggesting that Pacino was under the misconception that he was in a "decibel contest."

"Save \$10 and your dignity," the Daily News advised its readers. AFP

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"Rare kids' flick that engages youthful intellect and heart." — David Germaine, SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

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Vicky Morales is good news

By Cecile G. Garcia
Contributor

GMA 7 newscaster Vicky Morales loves to dance a la "Chicago" but hates to do the dishes, and she was once fired from a news program because she "lacked news presence."

Morales, an AB Communication graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, joined television in 1990. "I was recommended by my professor to Charo Santos-Concio of ABS-CBN," she recounts. She did shows like "Tatak Pilipino" and "Options" until she realized it was not her cup of tea.

She passed an audition for newscasters at GMA, and was singled out by Tina Monzon-Palma. Morales was made third anchor of "GMA Headline News," becoming part of the team of Palma and the late Jose Mari Velez.

And then Morales was fired from Headline News after three months. "Tina talked to me," she recalls. "She said I lacked news presence. I was not cutting it well."

Stung, she cried for a while but later realized the incident was a wake-up call. Dong Puno, she recalls, was instrumental in sal-

vaging her career. Puno saw her potential and invited her to join him in "Business Today," a morning show.

"I emerged a better person and my career took off from there," she says.

Today, after 12 years of being a successful TV broadcast journalist, Morales, 33, has established her own identity in local TV. She is co-anchor, with Mike Enriquez, of GMA's nightly primetime news program "Saksi," and host and producer of "I-Witness."

Rewarding

In 1999, she was named best female newscaster (for "Saksi") by the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas (KBP). In 2001, she won the KBP award for best public affairs program host for "Buhay sa Riles," which she produced and hosted for "I-Witness." The same year she was a finalist in the New York Festivals award for best TV documentary, human relations category, for "Askal," also for "I-Witness."

Last year, she was again a finalist in the New York Festivals Awards for the best television documentary—social issues/current events category for "Sabah, Ang Bagong Amerika?"

"I love what I do because it's rewarding in the sense that it enables me to meet different kinds of people," says Morales. "I get to live their lives through their stories." It's even more rewarding, she adds, when her audience reacts or is affected by the stories she tells.

Persistent and a perfectionist, she likes doing stories with a lot of drama, such as the one of Gracia Burnham. "It was a difficult assignment," she says. "I had to go all the way to Wichita, Kansas with major networks like CNN and I had to befriend their reporters. My survival instincts were tested."

Morales has been married two years to

lawyer King Reyno. The Reynos and the Moraleses are neighbors in Forbes Park.

Cleaning

The couple had to maintain a long-distance romance after Reyno left for the United States a year ago to study for his MA in law at New York University. "A part of me wanted to be with him, while another part wanted to stay because of my work," she says. "But I figured it was only one year after all. I could bear it."

She visited him four times in the US.

Throughout her TV career, Morales has managed to maintain the privacy she treasures. She describes herself as shy and not very sociable, a low-key person who does not equate her high-profile job with glamour which, she says, is only a minuscule part if at all. "I work hard and keep long hours," she says.

She's a homebody who's passionate about keeping their condo unit, especially the bathrooms, sparkling clean. Referring to herself as obsessive when it comes to cleaning, she says, "Cleaning is my hobby. I like seeing my place immaculate."

But she hates doing the dishes and doesn't cook much, she says.

Going live

She loves to dance, and confesses that at one time, she dreamed of being a vaudeville performer.

"I wanted to sing and dance, would you believe?" She says she spends evenings alone, especially after "Saksi," practicing and trying to copy the dance sequences in the movie "Chicago," which she watches repeatedly.

Foremost of her still-unfulfilled dreams is to have a baby and to begin raising a family. Another one is to perfect the art of going live on TV, because she feels going live



A HOMEBODY, she says "cleaning is my hobby"

is the toughest and scariest aspect of a broadcaster's job.

"I mean, going live on location, like what we do during special events and emergencies," she explains. "Anything can go wrong. You can forget your lines. The signal can go bad or go off. Mike (Enriquez) does it so well."

Given her passion and persistence, Morales can probably do anything she sets her mind on, including outdoing and upstaging Enriquez on live TV.

Going live is the toughest, scariest part of the job

The album Michael McDonald was destined to make

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AMERICAN vocalist Michael McDonald of St. Louis, Missouri has one of the most distinct voices in the industry, sometimes described as velvet and gravel coming from the same set of vocal chords.

But for decades, McDonald made a successful career as a background vocalist for such groups as Steely Dan, and finally as a member of the moderately successful '70s group The Doobie Brothers.

It comes as a relief for Michael McDonald fans, therefore, to know that last May, he released a 13-track solo album, simply titled "Motown." It is McDonald's personal tribute

to the great music from the Motor City, which has contributed so much to the development of American popular music culture with its contract artists such as the Jackson 5, Stevie Wonder and the late great Marvin Gaye.

"Motown," from the Universal Music Co., is only McDonald's fifth solo album after splitting from The Doobie Brothers in 1982, and his first all-revival album.

It kicks off, quite appropriately, with "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," one of the songs that made Marvin Gaye and Motown itself world-famous. He follows up with a toned-down version of "You are Everything," and then his take on Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours."

The saxophone solo on "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me" is a nice touch from arranger Simon Climie and Toby Barker, but they also make "How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)" run a tad too long.

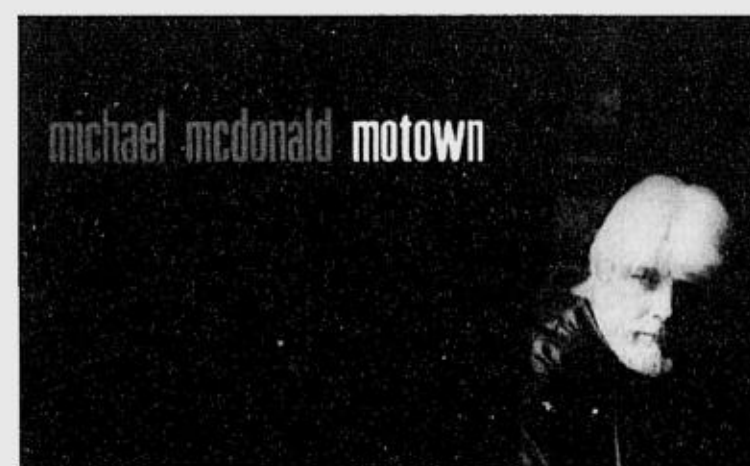
"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" is the perfect follow-up, but from there, the rest of the songs are on the slow side, with McDonald's wife Amy Holland providing beautiful background vocals on "Distant Lover."

The sequencing of the songs definitely leaves some room for improvement, since after opening with a bang with "I Heard It Through the Grapevine," it ends with a whimper because of the slow pacing of the latter songs.

McDonald admits in the album's liner notes that the hardest part of doing the record was trying to pick just 13 songs from the Motown catalog. This makes the album ultimately a hit-or-miss affair for the buyer. Either you will love it because the album happened to choose the same songs you prefer from the Motown catalog, or you will find it disappointing because you just simply cannot represent Motown in only 13 tracks.

McDonald, however, certainly has made a more than decent attempt with "Motown," an al-

REVIEW



Either you'll love it because you like the songs, or you'll be disappointed because it's not enough

bum, some say, that he was destined to record. His previous solo albums were not as warmly received, although he has never failed through the years to come up with certified hits.

As part of the Doobie Brothers, he made his mark as a songwriter/arranger with such hits as "What a Fool Believes," "Minute by Minute" and "Taking it to the Streets."

He joined the group in 1977 and he was credited for moving it from rock and roll to what is referred to as "jazzy blue-eyed soul."

He won Grammys for best arranger, record of the year for the Doobie Brothers' "What a Fool Believes" in 1979, and in 1984 for his song "Yah Mo B There" with James Ingram.

Critics say his succeeding solo albums, such as "If That's What It Takes" in 1982, which produced "I Keep Forgetting," and "No Looking Back" in 1985, did not fly off the shelves because he was reluctant to update his sound to suit shifting tastes.

But fortunately for die-hard Michael McDonald fans, he remained true to his own music.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LES GENDRES PARCOURS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATRY
CORONET A	BAD BOYS 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (DTS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	JE T'AI AIME
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	HAUL OF CASH / FLY
UNI-WIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELOA

Araneta Center	
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	BULLETPROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 6	FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
Ali 7	TOMB RAIDER 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
AUG 07	UAAP GAMES
AUG 09	UAAP GAMES
AUG 14	UAAP GAMES
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES
Opens	DISNEY ON ICE
December	Featuring
2003	"Beauty & The Beast"

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Vice Ganda continues to wreak havoc in Vina's US concert tour on the following dates: Aug. 9 in Jacksonville, Florida with Randy Santiago and Carlos Agassi; Aug. 16 in Portland, Oregon; and Aug. 24 in San Diego, California with Randy.

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PG13

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BAD BOYS 2 R13 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10	BAD BOYS 2 R13 2:10, 5:10, 8:10	FINDING NEMO GP 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

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ENTERTAINMENT

Jackie Chan to help lure HK tourists



CHAN: No stunts in commercials.

HONG KONG — Action film hero Jackie Chan is starring in a television advertisement that will be broadcast in 30 cities around the world in a bid to revive Hong Kong's battered tourism industry after the SARS outbreak, officials said Saturday.

But the Hong Kong-born star won't perform any of his trademark daredevil stunts in the commercial that began filming here on Friday, said Hong Kong Tourism Board spokesperson Simon Clennell.

In the ad, Chan will greet potential overseas visitors in several foreign lan-

guages including English and French, Clennell said.

Tourists stayed away from Hong Kong—the area hardest-hit by SARS outside of mainland China—during the outbreak, which cost the territory an estimated HK\$33 billion to HK\$46 billion (\$4.23 billion to 5.9 billion) in lost retail, airline and hotel revenue.

The figure was given in a report commissioned by the Better Hong Kong Foundation, a group of business leaders, that was submitted to the government on Friday, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome sickened 1,755 people here and killed 299.

The tourism board hopes to reestablish Hong Kong's popularity as a tourist destination, and the commercial is part of a HK\$400 million package (\$51.3 million) to restore glitz to the territory's image.

TV viewers in the US, Britain, Australia and Canada will be able to watch the ad in the coming weeks, said Clennell. It will also be aired in mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia. AP

After their successful "Diva 2 Diva" concert in Manila last December and their US road tour early this year, Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla apparently became close friends. Friday night, they were seen dining together at Mama on Ma. Orosa in Malate. Observers said the two singers either really became very good friends, or they're planning another project. They are expected to release a "Diva 2 Diva" album later. Zsa Zsa is marking her 20th year in show business this year, while Kuh is said to be considering taking on another role in a telenovela following her recent turn as a lawyer in "Bituin," the Nora Aunor series.

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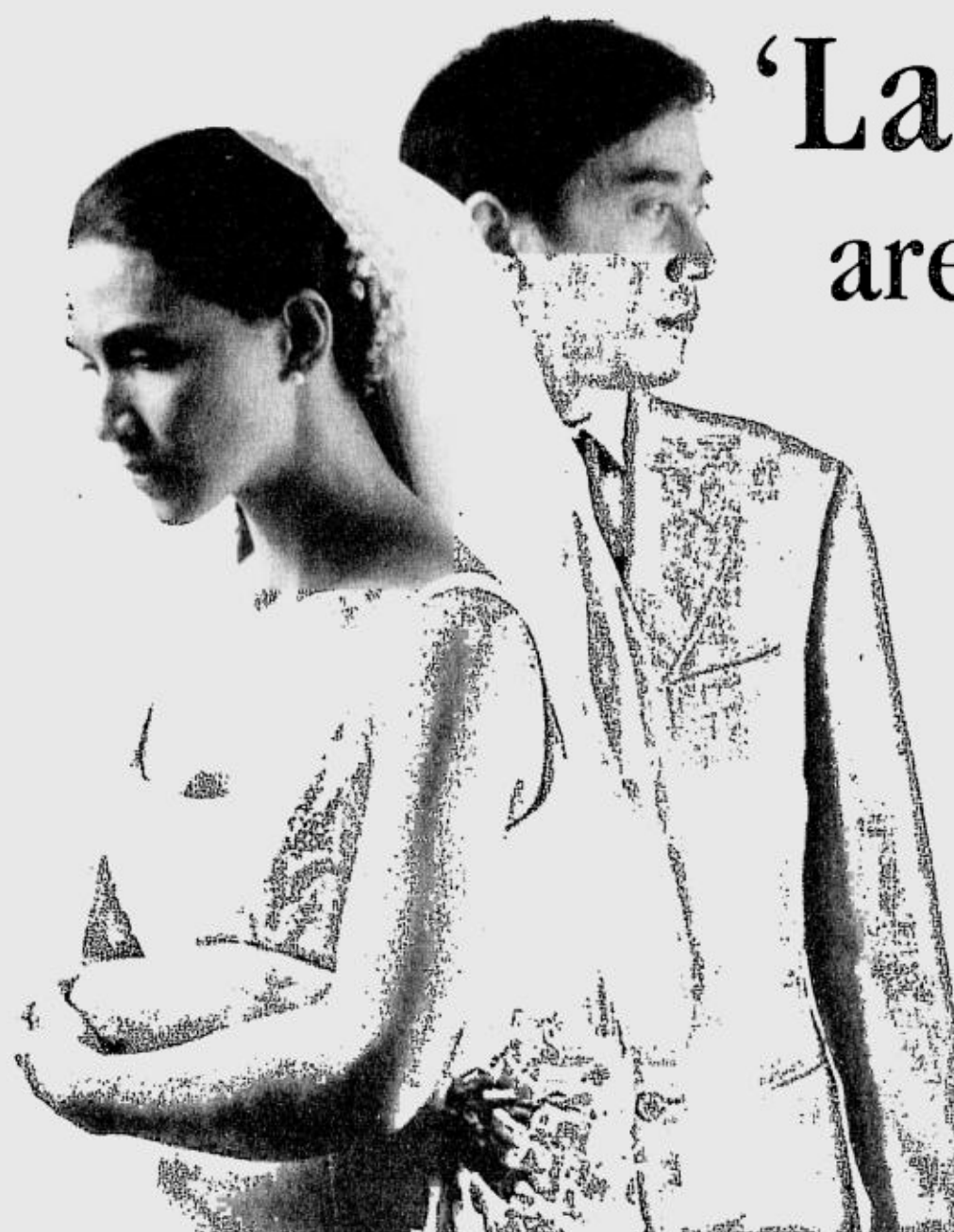
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MENCHU Lauchengco-Yulo and Audie Gemora play two sides of a mutinous marriage.

'Last 5 years' and coup are all about different viewpoints

By Bart Guingona
Contributor

HALF my friends are ready to lionize last weekend's mutineers as if they were the heroes we'd all been waiting for. The other half are ready to lynch them for the great inconvenience they caused.

Me? I stand by and watch the arguments fly in quick and passionate succession and reflect on "The Last Five Years," the play I am putting together at the moment.

It's about a failed marriage told from the differing perspectives of husband and wife. Each has his or her take on who is to blame for breach of contract.

How different should marriage vows be from vows of service in the military, oaths of service in the government and vows of celibacy in the Catholic priesthood?

It makes one realize that, beyond the finger-pointing, it's all really about accepting or denying viewpoints unlike one's own.

It may sound simplistic, but can we really deny that, in understanding and diplomacy, ego and arrogance often get in the way? The insistence that ours is the only perspective that matters leads to a failure of understanding that matters leads to a failure of understanding that claims other victims aside from the warring parties.

Biases in script

The "Last Five Years" tries to be fair but, as director, I recognize the palpable biases that the writer has embedded into what is ostensibly a very personal script. I won't be a spoilsport by telling you where his biases lie, but I will say he makes very good cases for either side.

Be warned that this is the kind of play that will make you identify with either character and probably lead to debates between you and your loved one.

But know also that your heated discussions in the restaurant after you see the show will almost certainly lead to a night of pure romance because you will also recognize that the play is ultimately about understanding and not judging.

I told Audie Gemora and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo during one rehearsal that it was important for each of them to defend

themselves to the audience because, in the end, third parties would judge you on the basis of how well you could explain why you acted like an SOB or a bitch to cause a breach of contract. The play is about winning sympathy to your cause.

I have assembled for the play a team of designers that should be the envy of much of Manila's theater world. But I face the daunting prospect of being "United Nations" to a team of highly successful, highly opinionated artists.

I believe the director has to be open to and even encourage the flowering of all artistic perspectives while being opinionated enough to know what he needs from each of the collaborators.

This will necessarily mean employing tact and diplomacy at all times to couch rejection while at the same time being nurturing and encouraging.

OF STAGE

The insistence that ours is the only perspective that matters leads to a failure of understanding

Opposing viewpoints

I decided that the costume designer for the woman should be totally separate from the costume designer for the man. That the set designer should have strong and

stark opinions and the light designer should possess highly personal if defensible preferences.

I wanted to bring together many opposing viewpoints to tell a single story unfolding in a complex world.

Joji Lloren, one of today's top ready-to-wear designers for women, has made a name as an intelligent force of design and fashion. He will do Menchu's costumes and has the unenviable task of subsuming his considerable artistic impulses to the demands of dressing a decidedly unartistic character.

Marden Iglesias is known for his wonderfully imaginative men's suits and is an artist at heart.

And then there's the rest of the artistic team that I am lucky to bring together in one show.

Ruben Reyes is a respected classical guitarist and one of, if not the best musical director in the country today, while Michael Williams (you know him if you know the theater in the Philippines) is vocal consultant.

Completing the artistic team are set designer Gino Gonzales, who in my opinion has never conceptualized a set that was not intelligent, and John Batalla, a lighting designer whose opinion I

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EO @ 35 Swinging

EYEWEAR. It defines you. Spectacles evolved from being a label of oddity to a fashion necessity.

With the influx of different brands with various shapes and sizes, wearing eyeglasses or just plain shades has become a science of some sort. Finding the right fit, the respectable label, and the reasonable price is no longer an easy task.

And there is one optical hub that knows how to make your life a lot easier, especially for you eyewear buffs.

EO Active Eyewear is redefining the marketplace of vision aides when it unveiled the revolutionary shop at the second level in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati. EO Active Eyewear opts to depart from the usual and gives an upbeat mood to make eyewear shopping a truly exciting experience.

There are no two things about it, the EO Active Eyewear shop will definitely elicit a second look from passerby. Is it really an optical store? Of course it is. It just so happened that the people behind it went for offering stylish brands instead of "just glasses."

As if reading the minds of people on the go, EO Active Eyewear is divided into the different personalities of consumers: Active Sports, Men at Play, Men at Work, Women at Work, and Women at Play.

The move to adapt a totally different look benefits mostly the consumers as it will save time in choosing from an overwhelming collection of glasses. As long as you know where you fit, you'd know where to go.

The interior is designed to complement the varied sections of the shop. From large poster boards to a bicycle table and even a replica of rock wall climbing is perfectly positioned to give it a very distinct look.

And this shop is not limited to the mature dynamic people alone. With mom and dad shopping for glasses, will the kids be far behind? A dedicated area for the children who need to use eyeglasses is especially set up in the hopes to remove the "odd" feeling of having to wear a pair. Buying spectacles should be a fun thing and the children must experience that.

But choosing the perfect eyewear cannot be achieved without the help of an expert. You won't have that "clinic feel" as you enter the refraction area. The cozy, comfy rooms are just few of the innovations EO had done to further develop a more personalized service.

On that note, fitting of contact lenses doesn't have to be done in the selling area anymore with pairs of eyes looking inquisitively at you like a specimen. EO Active Eyewear designed a contact lens fitting area to give more privacy. Privacy is very important because it lessens the pressure on the consumer, and it will help come up with a more sensible decision. Hey, choosing a look is no mean thing.

The beginning

In 1968, a young and enterprising optometrist by the name of Maximino S. Uy established his clinic at Cataluna Street in Manila. This was a quiet little street hidden from the hustle and bustle of España. Nonchalant of the business circumstances, he was simply determined to practice his profession and help those who needed his service. People visited his clinic and not before long, the queue of patients extended his practice till the late hours of the evening. By word of mouth, his profession grew with the many satisfied clients and friendships forged among business partners.

Today, 35 years later, Executive Optical (EO) has a total of 26 branches and has five more in construction. They are still driven by the same commitment to provide excellent customer satisfaction, offering products with the best value for money, using the latest state-of-the-art facilities and eye care equipment. "The core values espoused by its founder—excellence, integrity, creativity, teamwork, and fair play—are those which the company has grown upon," declares Gil Buensuceso, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Executive Optical.

Nationwide Service

From the success story of Cataluna Street, EO started establishing its presence at the malls in 1989. First to open was EO at SM City North Edsa. "We are thankful to the SM Group for allowing us to grow with them. This paved the way for the company's expansion into the

key cities nationwide and most of the Malls," adds Buensuceso.

In the decade of 1990s, EO started setting more branches in Metro Manila and opened its first provincial outlet at SM City in Cebu. The number of stores kept growing with its expansion to the key cities nationwide in 2000. This included EO branches in LCC Naga and Pavil in Bifan, Laguna in Southern Luzon; and Ceresan Baguio, NE Cabanatuan, CSI Dagupan and SM and Robinsons StarMills Pampanga in Northern Luzon. And in 2002, EO made its presence felt further in Mindanao with the opening of a branch in SM Cagayan de Oro in addition to its existing SM Davao branch. The Visayas, EO opened a second branch in Ayala Malls in Cebu City, and operates branches in the busy Iloilo City in SM Robinsons. This has truly proven EO to be the most aggressive optical retailer with an extensive marketing network.

"Our growth is marked by the numerous business alliances we have forged through the years," quips the COO. "We acknowledge the fact that without their support, we could not penetrate as many markets," adds Buensuceso. Indeed, EO's thrust to be where the smart shopper goes is right on track.

Service Standards

EO ascertains its leadership in the optical vision care industry through its reliable care services, product variety, value price and service excellence.

Using the latest equipment for the provision, standard procedures at store level include determining visual function, visual error, diseases, base curve measurement of



cornea, and prescript (Autorefractometers, lamps, bionicroscopes, retinoscopes, and optoscopes are optical equipment utilized by EO's branches to help di-

agnose the customer's vision problems. Even for Blindness tests are performed by their competent optometrists.)

An Objective Eye Refraction or what is called a Computerized Eye Examination is done using the use of Autorefractometers, and a Subjective Eye Refraction which utilizes the Phoropter and remote control auto chart projectors. Contact lens consultation and fitting, refraction assistance for individual needs, complete the gamut of services offered at each branch. Equipped with the Diamond Edge, EO strives to deliver any size and shape of lens your liking at the fastest possible time.

Variety and quality

One of the greatest strengths of EO is its desire to continuously enhance its product line, brand image, and service standards. This is to be misunderstood, though, as only cater to the upper income bracket of society. "I have often been asked what Executive Optical stands for," the COO shares. "The word executive in our name does not signify only a particular group that we wish to cater to but rather power in decision. Like an executive, we make choices but leave the decision making to the customer," adds Buensuceso. With its capability of complete eye care service, Executive Optical provides products that can best suit everyone's budget.

Contact lenses include Flexwear, Sauflon, Sclerals, Surevue, Acuvue, and SoftLens Comfort. In addition to this line which "is unbelievably easy to handle and offers your eyes exceptional comfort." Special contact lenses are specifically processed to aid every individual vision problem (Oxyflex). For the trendy, they offer a collection of colors of Illusions, Prismble, and Radiance contact lenses. It is for you to want to look good and see well!

EO is the exclusive distributor of fan-

D1



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SM brands like Vera Wang, Harrods, Timberland, Liz Claiborne, Nicole Miller, Cosmopolitan, Cover Girl, Andre Feraud, Adidas, and Warner Brothers Kiddie eyewear, to name a few. For sports eyewear, Adidas and Dunlop are the newest addition to the exclusive lines.

Some of the signature and active lineup include Prada, Rudy Project, Oxydo, Guess, Mossimo, Police, D&G, Replay, Chloe, Oakley, YSL, Gucci, Ralph Lauren, Rayban, Nike DKNY, Burberry, Max Mara, and Cartier, among others. "We have the widest array of signature and sports and sunglasses that even your kids can find a pair that will fit them best," says EO Marketing Manager Arleen Lindo.

EO provides a selection of ordinary and special lenses to suit everyone's requirement. A customer has options to select the lenses to address specific needs: from single vision, bifocal, photochromic, anti-glare, anti-UV or multi-coated and ultra thin to trifocal or progressive lenses that "give patients the updated look they want without compromising the good optics they need." (Kodak Concise)

Whatever you want, be it prescription or special lenses, the need to make a fashion statement, a practical pick for everyday wear, EO has it in their shelves waiting for you to wear your attitude.

Management Competence
EO's success in market leadership is grounded on a competent management team whose dedication to the ideals of excellence, integrity, creativity, teamwork, and fair play are of utmost importance. They thrive on their organizational efficiency, uncompromising excellent customer service, and product variety.

At the corporate level dedication to sourcing the best quality brands and constant update in eye wear trends is the key. "We give great worth to our clients and have the commitment to give them the best value for their money. Marketing the products and creating synergies among brands makes our promotional campaigns a feat to beat," shares Buensuceso.



At the branch level, competent optometrists attend to all customers' eye care concerns. Trained and skilled to attend to the customer's needs, they compose 60 percent of the branch manpower profile. Customer Care staff members together with the opticians complement the services rendered by the team. With the able leadership of professional branch managers, Executive Optical service promises congeniality, product knowledge, and a pleasant visit for all its customers.

Mission for Vision Activities



Eye Educate, Eye Literate
EO's dedication to service has brought it on a tour of the various schools in Metro Manila where they conduct free refraction for the schoolchildren. This emphasizes the company's desire to uplift the progress of every Filipino through proper eye care.

Medical Mission
EO works hand in hand with the local medical officials to establish medical mission in various municipalities like that in Bifan, Laguna where its doctors reach out and do refractions outdoors. Such missions mark the company dedication to the welfare of others in need of such medical attention.

Corporate Accounts Group
To serve the most number of clients, Executive Optical has formed a Corporate Accounts Group, dedicated to serving companies. Here they offer free refraction for all employees, conducted at the company's premises. EO ties up with the company for an added benefit in terms of eye care needs. This service is done at no expense to



the employer and even allows the employee to enjoy a convenient payment scheme with EO's credit extension. Avail yourself of this excellent opportunity for your company at (02) 372-6625 up to 28.

EO Active Eyewear—Swing to an Active Lifestyle

The recent change in the pace of lifestyles and the boom in popularity of outdoor sports have redefined the needs of the trendsetting generation. With this reality, Executive Optical throws its support to the young men and women who need more flexibility in their schedules, freedom in movement, yet keeping their consciousness about effective eye wear and protection.

The inauguration of EO Active Eyewear marks the company's 35th year in the business. "We are glad that Ayala Center Makati has given EO the opportunity to explore a totally new store concept in the highly visible location at the Glorietta," intimates Buensuceso. "EO Active Eyewear will prove our resolve to heed the signs of the times and move toward the direction of global competitiveness," he adds.

This new store concept declares EO's determination to be where you want to be—right smack at the center of the fashion capital, at the hub of trends and style. A totally new look, EO Active Eyewear seeks to meet the demands of the casual and competitive sportsperson, keeping his lifestyle, cool, uncomplicated, fuzz-free and possible.

Even with the fast pace of an active schedule, there is no need to compromise style with protection, performance with weight, and comfort with need. All that you'll ever need is at EO Active Eyewear.

- Changeable and colored lenses for variable weather conditions
- Lightweight and durable frame materials

that keep their shape even under stress

- Styles that are sleek fashion styling but carry high performance advantage

- Polarized lenses in many a signature brands

- Comfort in no-slip temple grips and nose pads that maintain their function even at the peak of competition

Both sections of Men at Work and Women at Work are a celebration of the young executive who keeps a crisp, cool image at the workplace. With a wide variety of signature brands to choose from, EO promises you a look for each role you want to play.

Men at Play is for the activities you have in mind. Timberland, GAP, Banana Republic, Executive Titanium, D.D. Hamilton, Plus Minus, Andre Feraud, Hugo Boss, Rayban, Matrix, Pepsi, Nine West and Harrods, are just some of the brands you can choose from.

Women at Play has all colors and shapes and textures to suit your fancy.

And at Active Sports we combine your need to remain competitive, together or separately, with the best performance sports eye wear, says Lindo. The brands will speak well for the performance sports they represent.

The Market

Even with the evolution of eyewear fashion, the services are never compromised. EO Active Eyewear addresses the specific needs of the people and where its branches are located. The market is carefully analyzed. Notice that there are certain brands not available in all branches.

The best thing about EO Active Eyewear is that there is a wide array of brands which are priced from the most expensive to the most affordable. It caters to people from all walks of life. There is no intimidating feel and every shopper will be encouraged to just even take a peek at any EO-Executive Optical branch.

The EO Active Eyewear in G3 will be the fashion hub of eyewear. With the most popular brands and a list of signature brands exclusively distributed by EO-Executive Optical and EO Active Eyewear, the revolutionary change will draw even the most fashion sensible individual.

But the beauty of the shop is not only "skin deep." The quality service you experience in most EO-Executive Optical branches is present at the G3 shop. Add to that are the state-of-the-art eyecare equipment especially chosen for this EO-Executive Optical shop.

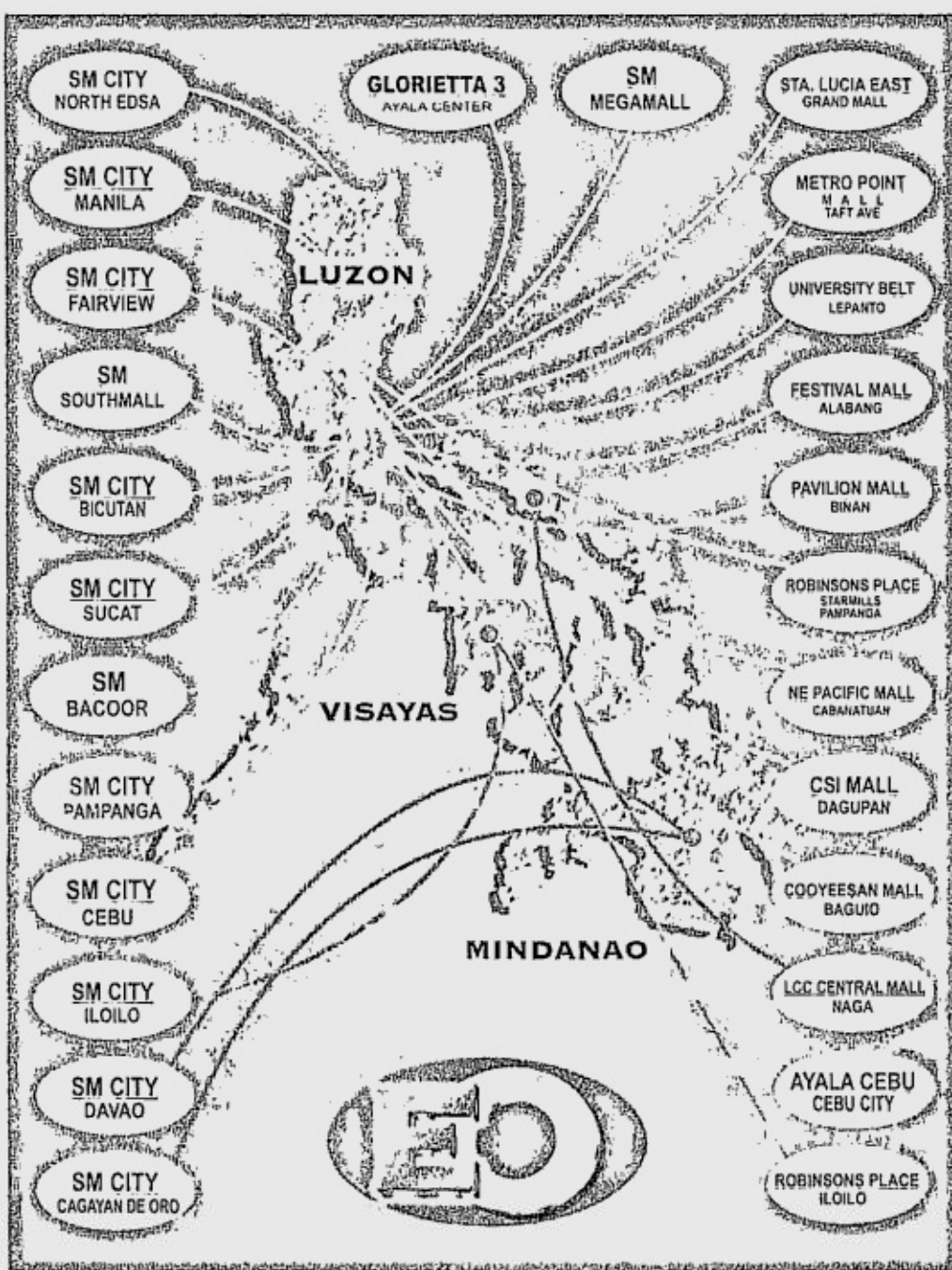
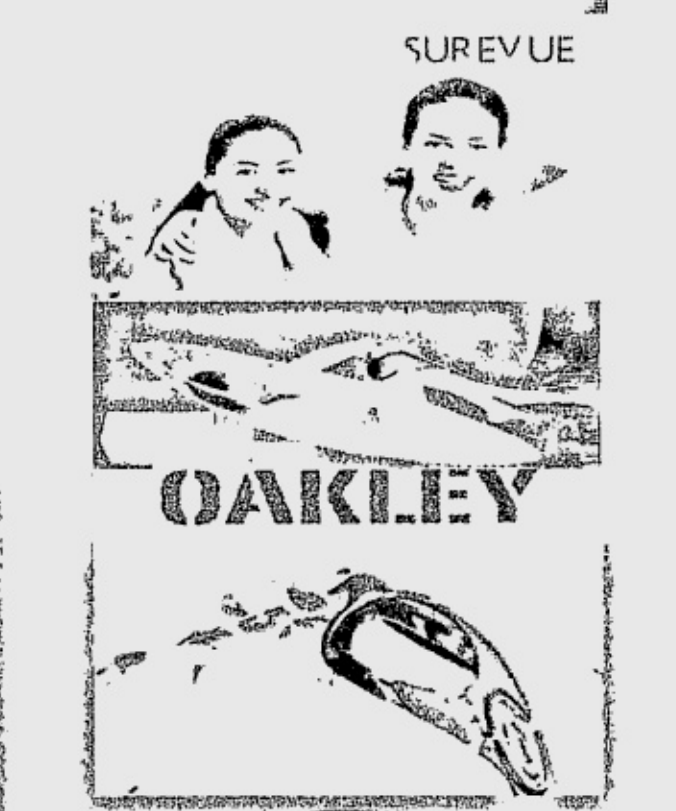
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Concert to mark Cardinal Sin's 75th birthday

A SPECIAL concert will be presented to celebrate the 75th birthday of His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Aug. 27 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Serviam" ("I will serve") will feature local entertainers and choral groups from various Catholic schools and universities. Some priests and nuns will also present musical numbers.

The Archdiocese of Manila is spearheading

the concert.

Born on Aug. 31, 1928, Jaime Cardinal Sin was ordained a priest at the age of 26. He became a domestic prelate, a largely honorific title which earned him the title Monsignor instead of the more familiar Father, at 31.

He was a bishop at 38, an archbishop at 44 and a cardinal at 48, the youngest ever to join the Sacred College of Cardinals. He would re-

main its youngest member for many years thereafter.

He was one of the prime movers of the 1986 EDSA Revolt that toppled a 20-year dictatorship.

Monsignor Gerry Santos, head of the organizing committee for "Serviam," says the concert is a celebration of Cardinal Sin's vision for the Filipino people. He recalls that during People Power 1, the cardinal called on the people to go to EDSA and join those calling for the ouster of the Marcos regime.

Monsignor Santos says the concert will highlight Cardinal Sin's dream for the country and the work he has done to make that dream come true.

Proceeds from the show will go to four of the cardinal's favorite beneficiaries: Caritas Manila, the youth, seminarians and catechists.

Leo Rialp is overall in charge of production and Ed Nepomuceno is musical director.



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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)

Art workshops in Diliman

PAINTING workshops will be conducted every Saturday starting Aug. 9 until Sept. 27 in UP Diliman by painter John Tañedo Olivares and his wife, graphic artist and painter Medge Samblaceño Olivares.

One workshop will be for basic drawing for beginner students 13 years and above, while the other workshop will feature basic oil painting for students 13 years and above who have had basic knowledge of drawing.

The workshops, which will cost P4,000 for the entire course of eight Saturdays, will involve individualized lessons to be held from 3-5 pm. at the Oz Cafe in the Art Circle Gallery, ground floor, Bahay ng Alumni, Magsaysay Avenue in UP Diliman, Q.C.

The Olivares couple are graduates of the UP College of Fine Arts, and John is currently a member of the faculty of the FEU Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts. Medge was a former art director of Mabuhay Magazine and associate art director of Mega Magazine.

Call or fax tel. 9313937 or (091) 93526698.

'Last 5 years' and coup...

From page D1

almost always defer to.

One night, after rehearsals at my flat, I had a meeting with all these creative souls. Although some of them could not make it, we had a spirited, opinionated and truly enlightening discussion.

There's nothing like an exciting script to provoke artistic flights of the imagination.

No hogging the limelight

Theater is about collaboration, and so is nationhood, I thought. Not any one contributor should hog the limelight, not any one idea should take precedence over the rest.

I thought, as I watched the Oakwood drama: unfold, "Maybe these monkeys on both the mutineers' and government's sides would act more humanely, more sanely, if they ever had to work in the theater!

There are always two sides to a

story. The husband's and the wife's. The accused and the accuser. The mutineer and the government.

But life, like the theater, is much too complex to have just two sides. Add the politician's side and the other politician's. And the journalist's. And the lights designer's and the actors' and the director's... What a hassle it is, isn't it?

We can only take it all, put it onstage, be the wiser for it and what the heck, be entertained in the process!

The "Last Five Years" opens 8 p.m. Aug. 29 with shows at 8 p.m. Aug. 30, Sept. 12 and 13; and 3:30 p.m. Aug. 31 and Sept. 14 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Ave. There will also be performances at Cebu's Ayala Center at 8 p.m. on Sept. 5 and 6. Tickets are available through Ticketworld, tel. no. 8915610.

New books on civil society published

ATENEO de Manila University has released two new books on the dynamics of civil society.

"The Kingdom and the Republic" (Forest Governance and Political Transformation in Thailand and the Philippines) by Antonio Contreras looks into the state-civil society relations as they influence policy-making for the conservation and utilization of forest resources. Dr. Contreras, a faculty member of De la Salle University's Political Science department,

compares experiences and lessons from the two countries using his modes of governance framework.

"The Real World of NGOs" (Discourses, Diversity, and Development) by Dorothea Hilhorst is an ethnography of a non-government organization that helps development practitioners understand better what NGOs are, and the roles played by local history, language, social ties, and politics

in development work. The book lets readers learn more about the day-to-day dynamics of NGOs through the author's experiences and insights. Dr. Hilhorst is senior lecturer at the Wageningen Agricultural University in The Netherlands.

Both books are available at the Ateneo Press bookshop (tel. 4265984; uni-press@admu.edu.ph); Popular Bookstore; Solidaridad; Powerbooks; or order from National Bookstore branches.

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VERSATILE choir

Kammerchor Manila in concert series

KAMMERCHOR Manila, one of the country's most versatile church choirs and a leading choral figure at the Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Edsa Shrine), had a series of special performances, starting with a sacred concert at the historic San Lorenzo Ruiz Minor Basilica (Binondo Church) on July 25. There was also an afternoon show on July 27 at the Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club.

The group staged its farewell concert at the Philamlife Auditorium on Aug. 3.

The concert series is in preparation for the group's European Goodwill Tour 2003, which includes the following countries: The Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, France, Germany and Italy. In Austria, Kammerchor Manila will be the first Filipino choir to represent the country in the Voices of the World Choral Festival.

Kammerchor Manila's versatility has been proven in its wide repertoire, which ranges from classical to spiritual, and from ethnic to pop.

The group's farewell concert series also raised funds for the Give-a-Life Foundation of the UP Philippine General Hospital Pediatrics Department to support the medical needs of poor and sick children.

Choirmaster of Kammerchor Manila is Joven Valeras, a graduate of the UST Conservatory of Music and an alumnus of the famed UST Singers.

Although the singers pursue various professions, their common zest for music and service keeps them together to share their God-given talents and spread God's message of peace and love everywhere they perform.

Among the recognitions that the group has garnered are Grand Prize in the prestigious Cantar Villancicos en Casa Manila in 1992, 1993 and 1997, and Grand Prize in the Festival of Carols Choral Competition at the Festival Mall in Alabang last year. For inquiries about the choir, call 6324874, (0917) 5371784, or 8343563; or e-mail esestrada54@yahoo.com.



LIFE STYLE



THE FILM is a merciless look at one of the poorest slums in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil's President calls it an 'important social document' and a call for change

'City of God' is city in distress

By Alexis Tioseco
Contributor

GUNSHOTS. Commotion. Feet scrambling through narrow alleyways.

"Hey, kid, get that chicken!" shouts Lil Ze, the merciless leader of a large gang, as he and his band of juvenile punks stand in the middle of the street.

The command is issued to Rocket, a slender young man with a camera dangling from his neck. Rocket bends his knees and slowly crouches, arms at his sides as if getting ready to steal second, and prepares to follow Lil Ze's instructions.

The young punks stand side by side in a line and, as Rocket begins his crouch, all 23 of them, each with a gun in hand, extend their arms forward in a cocky pose of defiance.

Rocket freezes. The camera whirls around him as he turns to reveal police standing behind, arms also extended, guns in hand. In voiceover we hear:

"A picture could change my life, but... in the City of God, if you run away, they get you... and if you stay, they get you, too. It's been that way ever since I was a kid."

The camera continues to whirl around Rocket before dissolving into the image of a child with hands at his sides getting ready to play soccer. A title card appears on the screen: "The Sixties."

In no more than 90 seconds, we are introduced to both the beginning, and the beginning of the end.

And so begins Fernando Meirelles and Katia Lund's brilliant "Cidade de Deus" (City of God), a film that spans over 20 years of drugs and violence in one of the poorest slums of Rio de Janeiro.

From the 'Good Wave'

Hailed by critics around the globe, and an official selection of the 2003 Cannes and Toronto International Film Festivals, "Cidade" is the latest offering of the Latin American film movement touted as La Buena Onda or the Good Wave.

Begun by such films as Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's "Amores Perros," Walter Salles' "Central Station" (Cinemania 2002) and Alfonso Cuarón's "Y Tu Mama Tambien" (Cinemania 2002), the rise of Latin American film is characterized by an unflinching eye directed toward the reality of the situation in the countries in the region—be it the slums, the class divide, or adolescents growing up.

The movie was adapted by Meirelles from an almost 700-page novel of the same title by Paulo Lins, about his growing up in the violent and hellish slums of Rio de Janeiro known as the City of God.

"The book," Lins says, "was the fruit of 30 years of observation and 10 years of research... From the time I was a little kid, I watched what was going on around me, so everything that appears in the book is real, and that reality is exactly what the filmmakers wanted to capture."

Lins received several offers for film versions of his multi-awarded novel, including some coming from filmmakers more decorated or with more experience filming in Rio de Janeiro's slums than the admittedly middle-class Meirelles.

Cast of amateurs

The novelist agreed to let Meirelles make the film when the director told him he planned to cast amateur actors from the Cidade de Deus slums and other impoverished areas in Rio de Janeiro for the characters in the film.

This is the reason why Meirelles acquired the assistance of filmmaker Katia Lund. Of Norwegian descent, Lund is originally from Sao Paulo and alumna of Brown University.

She has directed several Brazilian rap videos, and did a notable documentary about drug dealers in Brazil, "News from a Private War." She brought to the film her experience in dealing with people from the slum areas as well as her extensive knowledge of the subject matter.

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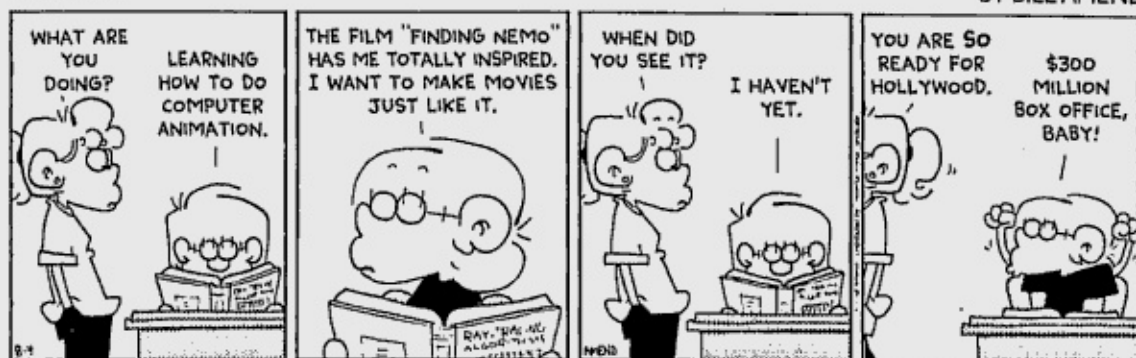
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BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the soul of an artist. You are clever, fast-thinking and sometimes difficult to pin down. Your restless, active nature makes you seek adventure and knowledge. You need to be free to share your ideas with the world. This year you'll face some important choices. You're ready for them. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Maurice Richard, hockey legend; Billy Bob Thornton, actor/writer; Louis Armstrong, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today starts off quite differently from how it finishes. In the morning, you feel confused, perhaps even tired. By evening, you know what you want, and you will work to get it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be careful about contracts or agreements this morning. You might not have all the facts, and someone could be deceiving you. Think things over.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel the need to surrender to somebody this morning. It's as if you cannot assert yourself or are victimized by something. Fortunately, by evening this feeling is gone!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't let discussions with bosses and authority figures confuse you this morning. Your confidence is weak because you are unsure of your objective. This evening, everything is clearer.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't start this week off by spending money this morning. The beginning of the day has considerable confusion and uncertainty. This diminishes as the day wears on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with others at work are confusing at best and deceptive at worst. Do not act if you feel unsure about something. By this evening, you will know what the story is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your feelings of sympathy for a friend will tempt you to go overboard trying to help him or her. Wait before you act. You might see things in a different light this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't worry if you are afraid to assert yourself with bosses and VIPs today. Confusion and doubt are rampant this morning! By evening, all is much clearer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a poor day to negotiate or make contractual arrangements with others. You find it hard to defend your own needs or to proceed intelligently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Guard your own money and belongings as well as those you have custody over. Someone could be playing the role of victim or martyr today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): A strong confusion exists this morning in discussions with partners or close friends. Someone might appeal to your sensitivity and compassion. Wait until this evening to decide what to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Be patient at work this morning. Confusion reigns. You can expect others to come to you with their problems because they need your help. This evening you will know what to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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- Nimble
- Ely or Popail
- Blue
- Ms. Gorbachev
- Track circuit
- Missouri feeder
- Letters for Kreskin?
- E-mail period
- Stage whispers
- Van Der Beek stream?
- Seek to enroll
- Schedule figs.
- Duck and dodge
- Wing-shaped
- A Stooze
- Denver key?
- Etc.'s cousin
- Thespian
- Prayer ender
- Lip
- River of Cologne
- Jamboree

DOWN

- Kavin Kline film
- Poker bullets
- Road roller
- Tokyo, once
- Snow White in a word
- One way to pay
- Speckled steed
- Mag. honchos
- Wine description
- Spheres
- Starway part
- Bikini event, in headlines
- Outdoor festivals
- C.S. Lewis selling
- Tender feeling
- New Mexico art colony
- Tear unit
- Charged particle
- Tortoise's opponent
- Saraglio areas
- Hold fast
- Thalia's sister
- Marquis de
- "A Death in the Family" author
- Office piece
- Intriguable
- Academy Awards
- Baronets, e.g.
- Intoxication
- oatmeal: abbr.
- "Too Hot" star
- Exercises
- BMW rival
- Byron of golf
- Violent tirades
- Madonna movie
- Coke and Pepsi
- Against
- Cradle call
- Like Nash's lama
- Writer Farber
- Needle-nosed fish
- Exclamation in Bonn
- Response time

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/4/03

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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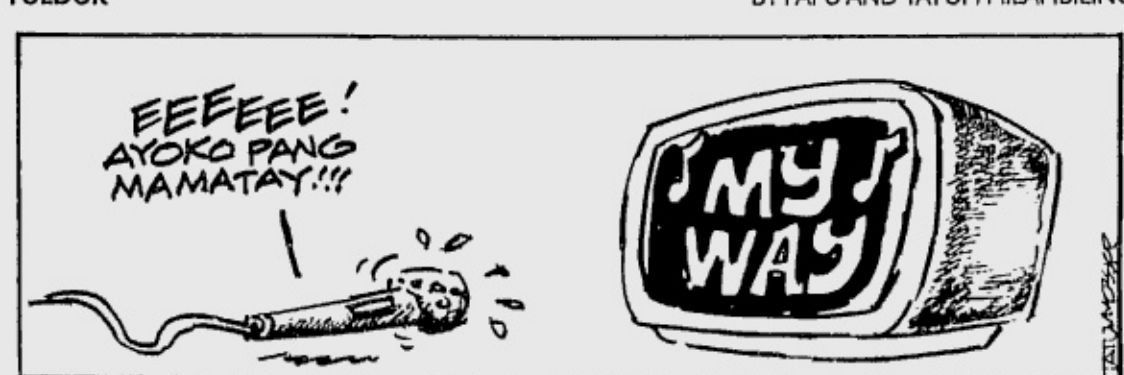
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





"EVERYTHING... is real."

'City of God' is city in distress

From page E1

Starting with more than 3,000 aspirants, Meirelles and Lund selected and held workshops with the 100 kids they finally chose for the film.

Lund said what she hoped to do with "Cidade" and "News from a Private War" was "to show what is happening, in a clear way and without labels. People come to know... through the media all these problems that I have mentioned... each edition and headline designed to sell newspapers. And the press is so objective that it doesn't bring you any real emotions. You watch it and keep on drinking your coffee, and afterwards you forget. I think there must be a personal impact to feel this revolt and actually act."

The 47-year-old Meirelles, who also has a background in documentary filmmaking, is a longtime director of commercials. Directing commercials, Meirelles said, taught him how to get his message across efficiently, while retaining the audiences' interest.

Powerful and riveting

Meirelles and Lund's shared background in

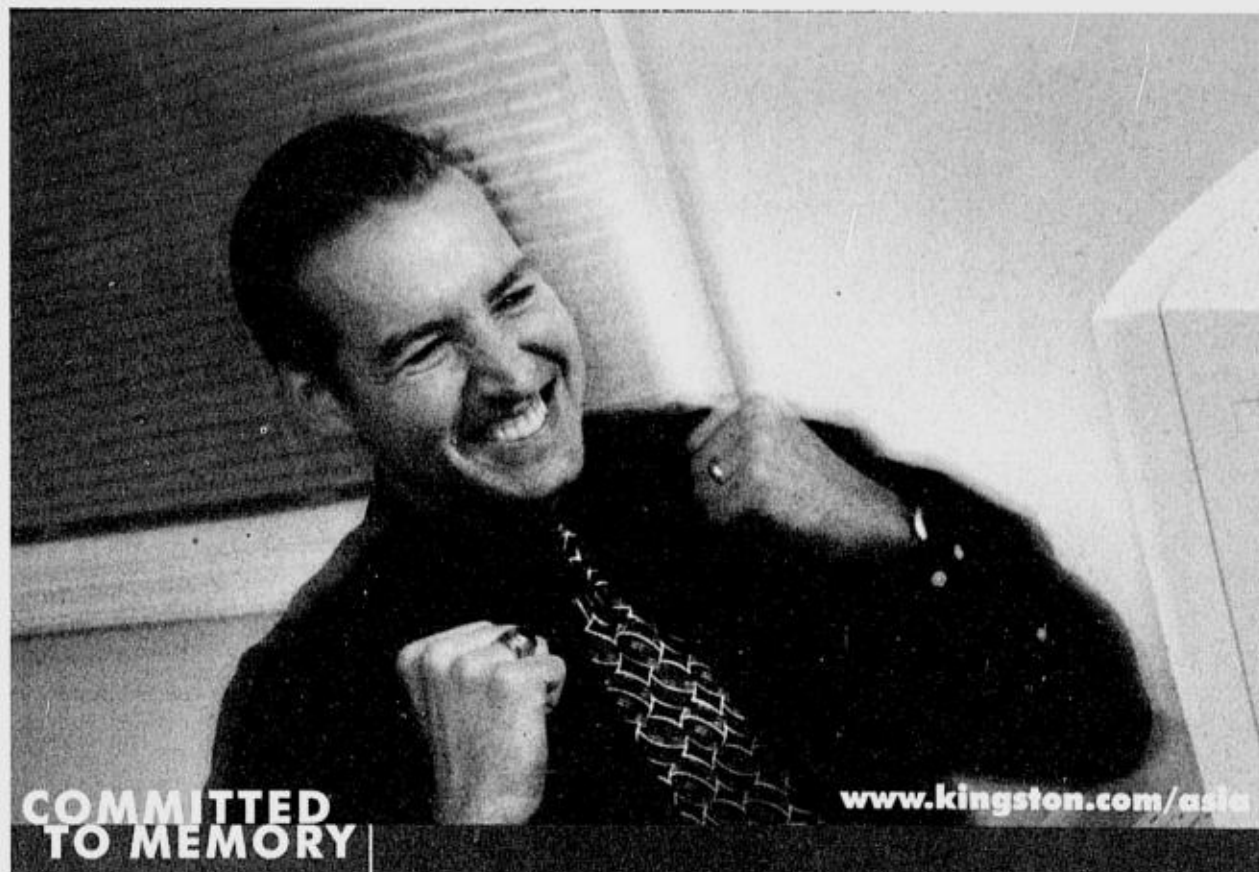
documentary filmmaking, as well as his experience in commercials, led to a powerful and riveting film, natural and realistic but also beautifully told with a technically brilliant narrative.

A cultural phenomenon in Brazil, "Cidade" has been seen by more Brazilians than any film in more than 30 years and has sparked serious debates.

Though often criticized for its violence and depiction of the cruelty and hopelessness in the slums of Brazil, the film was defended and endorsed by "Lula" da Silva, Brazil's new and first socialist President, who called it an "important social document" and a call for change.

The Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival, which will show "Cidade," is an annual project of the city of Makati under Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines founded by Amable "Tikoy" Aguilar VI.

The 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival runs from Aug. 7-24 at the Greenbelt Cinemas, Makati.



PROMOTION DATES
July 15 - August 15, 2003

Deadline for submitting the raffle tickets is August 15, 2003. Raffle drawing will be held on August 27, 2003 at Via Mare, Philippines Stock Exchange Center Building, Pasig.

For any questions about this promotion, just ask the sales associate.



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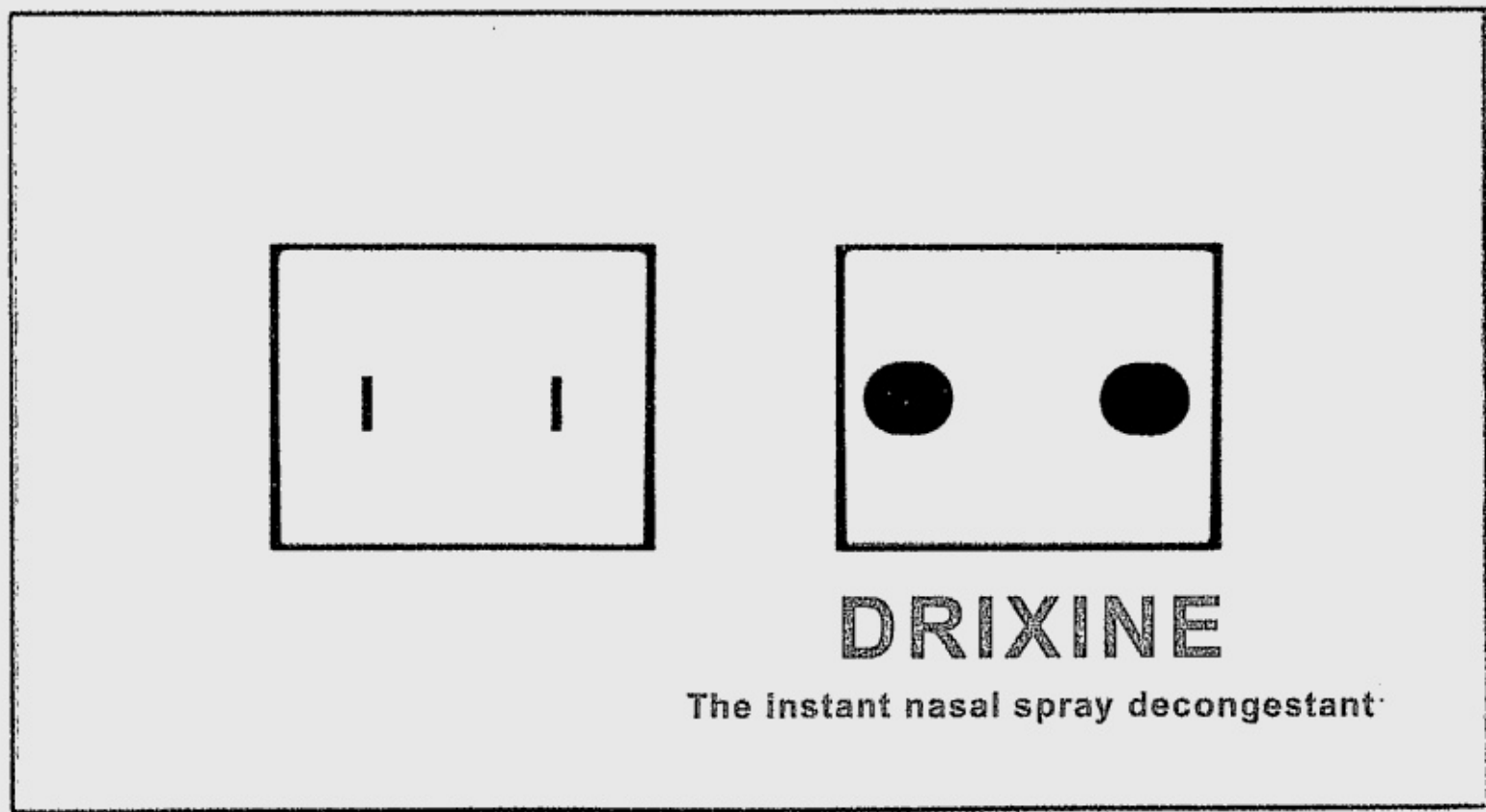
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JOHNNY Panes, PTCA president, signs the adoption memo of agreement with Emalinda R. Elago, principal of KM 5 Elementary School, one of 14 adopted schools, in West District I, Upper Balulang, Cagayan de Oro City.

'Revolution' is declared in Cagayan de Oro

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

THE EDUCATION Revolution broke out in Cagayan de Oro City just hours after the last of the Glorietta mutineers boarded the army trucks that would take them to their detention area.

Fr. Antonio S. Samson, SJ, Xavier University president; Dr. Anselmo Mercado, Southeast Asia Region Social Leadership Institute (Searsolin) director; Pueblo de Oro Development Corporation vice president and general manager Rodolfo Meñes; and Beth Cabugas of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power formally launched the Education Revolution for Northern Mindanao in simple ceremonies at Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro July 28.

The three organizations announced the formal adoption of 14 public schools in Region 10. Searsolin listed 10 public schools that it adopted through its Appropriate Technologies Unit, while Xavier University and Pueblo de Oro have two each. (Watch out for the names of the 14 public schools later.)

Dr. Imelda Pagtolun-an, the indefatigable Xavier University dean of liberal arts, coordinated the launch from Cagayan de Oro. For the past months, she was in close contact with the FWWPP, through Beth Cabugas, to iron out the kinks in the adoption process before the launch.

In his opening remarks, Fr. Samson stressed the importance of the Education Revolution, saying that quality education leveled the playing field for the less privileged.

Dr. Mercado, on the other hand, said the advocacy of quality education undoubtedly was the most appropriate social development strategy given the prevailing conditions.

Dr. Sinforosa Guinãres, the Department of Education's division superintendent for Cagayan de Oro City, said the Education Revolution could not have come at a better time for the public schools in her care. She told the assembly that the schools needed all the help they could get.

The specific adoption programs for the 14 schools are being developed by an executive committee composed of Dr. Pagtolun-an; Rachel Polistico, Searsolin deputy director; Isagani Daba, Xavier University treasurer and finance officer; Trel Borja and Beth Cabugas. Joan Manaloto, Pueblo de Oro community relations assistant manager, will handle the coordination work needed to make adoption programs sustainable.

Inspiring Cavite teachers

"People become doctors, lawyers—even politicians—because of teachers, that is why I am proud to be a teacher," Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, the FWWPP Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator, told the teachers, Department of Education and local government officials, and parents assembled at the Manuel Roxas Elementary School in Cavite City recently.

Dr. Mejillano has just retired as faculty-in-charge of the University of the Philippines College of Education. Holder of a doctorate in health science from Indiana University, she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in education from the University of the Philippines.

As an educator, Dr. Mejillano has received numerous citations and awards from various institutions all over the world. "But I am, first and foremost, a teacher, and



FR. Antonio S. Samson, SJ, Xavier University president



DR. Evelyn Mejillano, FWWPP Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator



DEPED Cagayan de Oro City superintendent Sinforosa Guinãres

that is how I wish to be known," said Dr. Mejillano.

She attended the Education Revolution pre-planning activities for Cavite City spearheaded by the 15th Strike Wing of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), together with this writer, who presented the rationale and mechanics of school adoption to the PTCA and faculty of Manuel Roxas Elementary School.

(Paging Mme. Judy Roxas and Trade and Industry Sec. Mar Roxas. Can we count on you to help this school that honors your family name?)

DepEd Cavite City superintendent Nilda Dator welcomed Dr. Mejillano, saying it was heartwarming to know there were still people like her willing to go out of their way to help public schools.

Capt. Freddie Conejar, the 15th Strike Wing's director for civilian-military operations, said the school-assistance program they submitted to the PAF top brass had just been approved. This plan called on the 15th Strike Wing to actively find ways to help public schools within a 15-kilometer radius from the Danilo Atienza Air Base in Sangley, Cavite City.

"We want to help in any way we can. *Bilang mga sundalo ng Pilipinas, kailangang sugpuin din namin ang kaaway ng edukasyon, dahil ang edukasyon ang susi laban sa kahirapan,*" said Capt. Conejar.

After learning of the 150-percent tax incentive under the Adopt-a-School Act, Councilor Larry Crawford, chair of the education committee of the Cavite City local school board, said he would mobilize business owners in Cavite City, and he would show them businesses could benefit from helping public schools.

"Sana ay magkaisa tayo," said Crawford.

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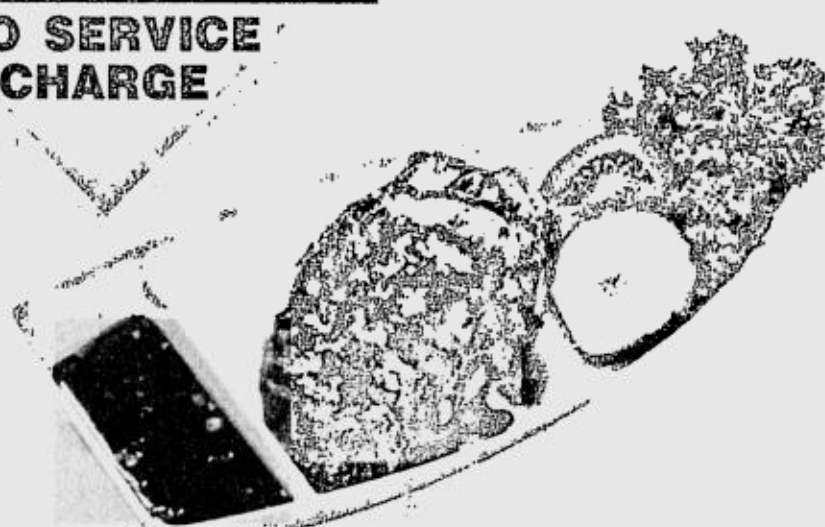
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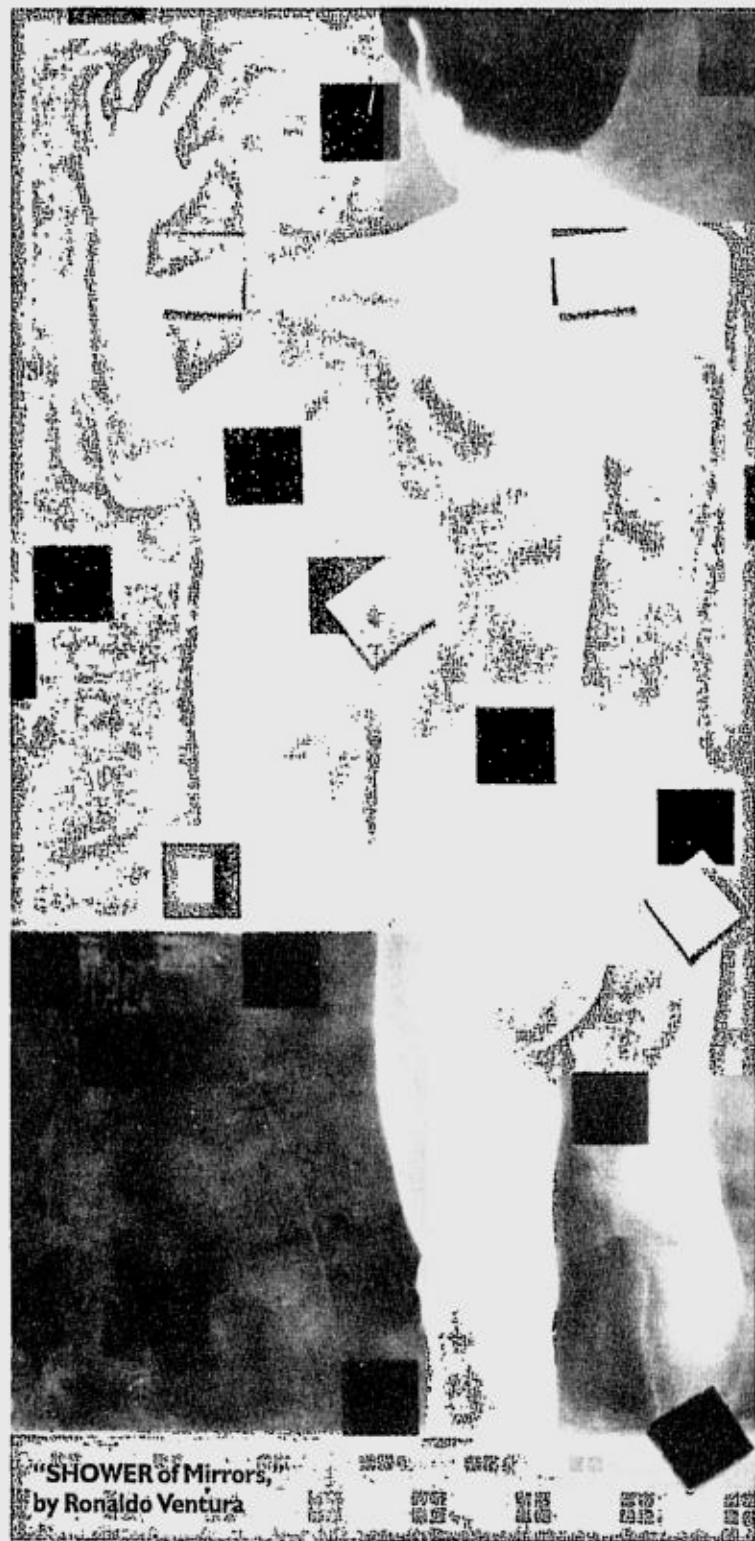
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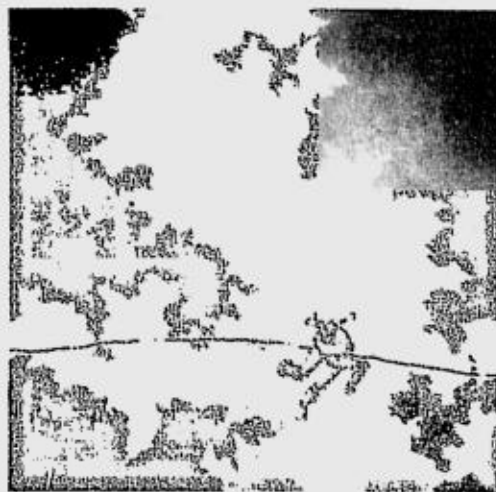
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SHOWER of Mirrors,
by Ronaldo Ventura



ARTWORK by Mary Grace Tenorio

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Art in a nut-Shell

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

PETROL giant Shell offers a respite from the brow-furrowing and hand-wringing tension of the "coup" and its aftermath with an art show which brings together the grand prize winners of the National Shell Art Competition of the past 18 years.

Why 18? Because Shell would like to provide a venue for young artists.

The show is the result of the oil company's desire to reach out to the NSAC winners and ease for them the arduous (and often futile) process of sourcing for exhibitions, particularly for artists trying to break into the scene. Thus,

younger artists were tapped, since they would need the help most.

Since it was a gargantuan task locating all the grand winners, only 23 are taking part in the reunion: Ferdinand Mark Basa, Roderick Cruz, Pepito Felipe Jr., Romeo Forbes, Rodel Garcia, Paul

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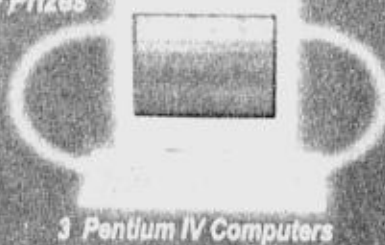
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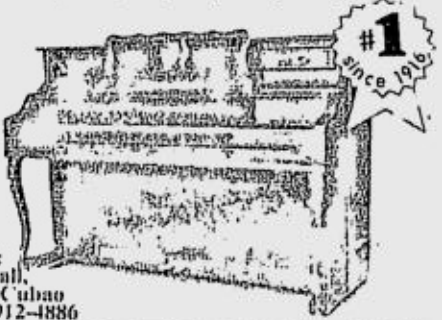
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YEARS OF SERVICE

Art in a nut-Shell

From page F1

Infante, Nikulas Lebajo, Widmarth Lodriga, Christopher Manalang, Lotsu Manes, Edgar Allan Nepomuceno, Albrecht Delft Pagaduan, Marcial Pontillas, Ryan Raymundo, Michael Rivero, Ivan Roxas, Noel Sadicon, Maria Dorothea Taniguchi, Mary Grace Tenorio, Olan (Rolando) and Ronaldo Ventura, Sherwin Villano and Alberto Emmanuel Villavert III.

The endeavor is admirable. Shell has done well not only in supporting the budding artists, but in fostering a fellowship among artists, young and old, so that they may mutually benefit from the exchange of ideas.

Ticket to big time

Winning in the NSAC is generally seen by the art sector as a ticket to acclaim and recognition. For a number of them, it came with validations.

Mary Grace Tenorio made her fine arts plates with diligence because they were course requirements. Her Shell grand prize changed all this; it somehow freed her from her academic confinement and showed an avenue of possibilities.

As she did in her awarded work, Tenorio paints clear skies for the reunion. The work may signify an enlightenment—that of recognizing what is actually innate.

She mingles the subconscious and her technique by juxtaposing against the azure heavens a wooden figure model balancing on a metal wire.

Edgar Allan Nepomuceno says poetry and sculpting-painting exist in symbiosis as his vehicles for meditation.

This time, he showcases his paintings that emanate from contemplation, the same faculty that provided the seed for his sculpt-

ture that received the Shell award last year. Winning, then, was the cherry that topped his sundae, for Nepomuceno is actually training to become an aeronautical engineer.

Christopher Manalang won when he departed from the usual wood, steel and glass as sculpture media. He presents once more his soap carvings in a depiction of the "life of the Messiah."

He painstakingly etches each Perla soap bar. One wrong move, and the whole piece may break.

It is ironic that Manalang does not use wood to capture moments in the life of Christ, who was a carpenter. Perhaps, behind this creative material diversification is the message that his art both represents and cleanses?

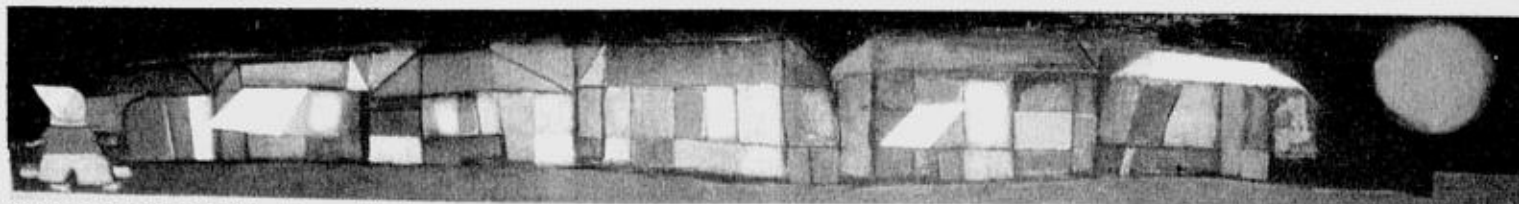
Rodel Garcia admits to a certain artistic vanity which must not be misconstrued as conceit. He explains that the impetus for the creation of his prized piece was one of a gnawing challenge to pit self against self, seemingly an urge to outdo past works.

Fortuitously, the award he got compounded this personal fulfillment. On display is Garcia's city map where streets represent Philippine provinces, and main avenues are those either touched by progress, riddled by conflict, or may be historically significant.

It is quite reminiscent of New York-based Lordy Rodriguez's state maps. But while Rodriguez riddles his with demographic references-cum-personal itinerary/impressions, Garcia's "Bayan sa Kabilang Bayan" starkly defines issues current and pressing.

Placing in the NSAC, not surprisingly, has bolstered Romeo Forbes' confidence. He has a knack for laying out on canvas color-rich expressionist narratives of a memory that may have struck him out of the blue, or of impres-

"PASYAL at Paninda," by Romeo Forbes



"PANA-PANAHON," by Romeo Forbes



"BETWEEN me and the spirit," by Edgar Allan Nepomuceno

sions he sees day to day. His are spectrum-reminiscent compositions which range from poignant and pining, to robust yet reserved, and refreshing and beguiling.

He was given top marks in the watercolor category in 2001, although he now paints in oil or acrylic. But he stresses that he has not lost his love for watercolor.

Feather in the cap

Also common among these titlists is the sense of measure and worth, especially since at the time of their victory they were students.



CHRISTOPHER Manalang and his soap sculpture

Ronald Ventura recalls that he felt then that the victory confirmed his status as perhaps the most notable painter on campus. But he also declares that no one can rank artists.

Ventura exudes the professionalism brought about by a fruitful career, and says that an NSAC feather on one's cap somehow attracts more buyers.

A teacher (on leave) at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design, Ventura is known for his extreme representational accuracy. But he says a painting is a two-dimensional thing, however lifelike the rendition.

"Shower of Mirrors" embodies this view, as portions of the man facing the mirror with his back to the viewer also fall away as though pixels separate from the whole picture.

Olan Ventura, Ronald's younger sibling, shares not only the experience and benefits of being an NSAC alumnus, but also prowess in realism. This younger Ventura, however, explores matters more personal.

His subjects are his family—his wife, his children—their play and their rambunctiousness. Olan may very likely be immortalizing what may have been an actual moment from his own formative years as an artist.

Commemorating his triumph over two decades ago is Nikulas Lebajo, with another of his groupings, done in his precise manner, save for the occasional broken piece or the unexpected element of an insect scaling a bottle's neck



"BAYAN sa kabilang bayan," by Rodel Tapaya Garcia

or of a cat in the middle of a series of jars. He refers to his style as representational with shades of realism and photo-realism.

Alberto Emmanuel Villavert III, now based in Antique, is still fond of using children as his subjects. Perhaps the only change in his pieces is his use of the pallet knife, now interspersing expressionism with his signature realist brush strokes. The perk of his 1994 triumph in the oil/acrylic category was that it brought him numerous buyers who commissioned works similar to his winning piece.

"The Shell First Prize Winners 1989-2002" exhibit is on view until Aug. 17 at the 4th floor Bridge-way, SM Megamall.

The Challenge is Over... The Best have Prevailed!

Sixty students from all over the country battled it out on the programming field in the first-ever nationwide students skills programming competition, the Wireless Challenge, held last July 26, 2003 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Prominent individuals from the IT and Internet Commerce industries were in attendance as the best and brightest IT students in the Philippines demonstrated their expertise in the development of specific applications for wireless devices.

Aside from the competition, there were technology showcases on display, raffle prizes given away, as well as cocktails and entertainment to celebrate the competition's successful conclusion.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Wireless Challenge!

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For more information, visit www.wirelesschallenge.com.ph or the online forum at www.msdn.ph/forums.

Wireless Challenge
www.wirelesschallenge.com

Remembering the Filipino Caruso

From page F4

pursue music, but he was a bit obsessed with the young Avelino turning into a good pianist. Avelino soon became his father's accompanist.

His father would often cite the example of the violinist Carmencita Lozada (a family friend).

"If you study hard like her," his father would often tell him, "you'd be famous like her."

If "A Song to Remember" introduced Avelino to Chopin, it was "The Great Caruso" that introduced him to opera. His father also brought him to see the movie.

There is a picture of the young lawyer accompanying his father singing an aria from Flotow's "Martha." The tape of the rehearsal was played to a live audience watching the First Pasig Summer Music Festival at the Pasig Museum.

It was a special voice, unique in its projection and clearly a sound from another generation.

What legacy did their famous father bequeath to them?

"Number 1, he made sure that we all finish our studies and be self-sufficient," he said. "Of course, the musical legacy was something else. That has no price. He made sure that we all had a taste of what it was to love music. He was a role model for me because of music. He was also a role model because of the way he handled his family."

Rodolfo Cruz said his dad was a strong moral force.

"His influence on us was also in the area of moral values. This was important to him. To him, having money has no value if you don't have integrity. He was offered lucrative positions during his time, but I would often hear my mother tell my father, 'It was good that you got away from that job offer. Huwag nating pakainin ang mga bata ng galing sa masama.'"

Antonio had another view of his father. "He was cool in the very sense of the word. He was always smiling, and even if he got angry, he looked so relaxed. I would say he was a man of contentment because he was able to achieve what he wanted to reach in music. Music was everything to him, and he had no regrets that he wasn't able to buy a car or anything like that."

On the day his father died, Antonio dreamed of his father telling him not to cry. They were amid a green landscape, both of them naked, and he was sure it wasn't just a dream.

"It was too real to be a dream," Antonio said.

When Octavio Cruz was in the hospital, Avelino remembered his father asking for his opera cassettes.

"He was listening to his favorite operas up to the last minute," said the lawyer.

When the tenor passed away on June 20, 1977, noted singers, including Manalo and Santiago, gave a last tribute at the Pasig Cathedral. It looked like a full concert, with the singers threatening to sing themselves hoarse

just to honor a dear departed.

With the passing away of Octavio Cruz, the

country lost one of its last few links to the golden age of opera.

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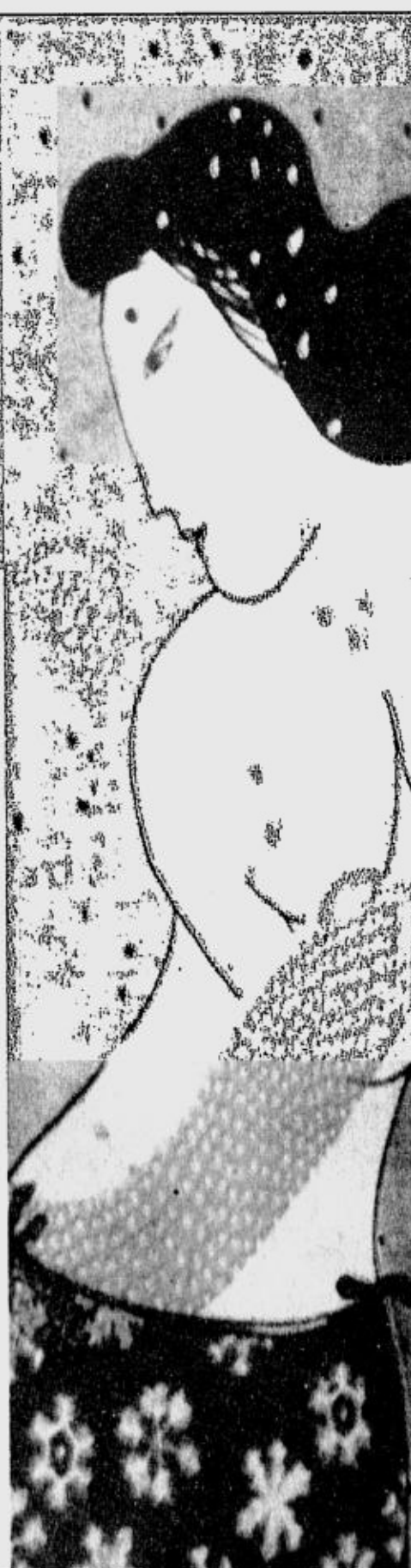
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OCTAVIO CRUZ

Remembering the Filipino Caruso

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

Conclusion

MUSICIANS would also congregate in a music store on Raon Street in Quiapo, Rodolfo recalled. When one needed someone to sing or perform in a wedding or funeral, the Raon hangout was the place to go, he said.

When Rodolfo Cruz got married in 1966, his father got all the musicians he could find to sing at the wedding. He himself sang in his son's wedding.

The only opera Rodolfo recalled watching where his father was the tenor was the one mounted at the Manila Metropolitan Theater, but couldn't recall the title. "It must have been 'La Traviata,'" he said.

How was it having a tenor and music educator for a father?

Everyone in the family had basic music lessons. Rodolfo was into sax, Avelino and Remedios was into piano and Antonio got coaching in singing.

Antonio recalled that he was taught correct breathing and the right use of diaphragm before taking up voice lessons. He was asked to lie down, put a book on top of his tummy and monitor how it would rise with the breathing exercises.

"(My father) also taught me how to play the banduria," he added.

But Antonio did not go to opera singing. He was drawn to the rock bands when he was only 14. But he had to finish electrical engineering and work before he could give vent to his "rock" calling in music.

What Avelino Cruz could recall was that their house was filled with music scores, many of them tenor arias from different operas. When his father started composing, their house became a virtual music library.

One composition of Avelino's father was the "Andrea March" (named after their mother). He said his father was watching a Nora Aunor movie on TV one day when he recognized the music score—it was his own "Andrea March".

Avelino called the attention of the producer, Atry. Esperidion Laxa, who apologized and explained he hadn't intended to pirate the music, it was just he didn't have any idea who the composer was. The two sides agreed to settle the matter amicably.

Nothing but music

Avelino recalled one of his father's last engagements at the FEU Auditorium, where he saw the likes of conductor Herbert Zipper leading the Manila Symphony in the performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. His father was the tenor soloist.



TENOR Octavio Cruz with son Avelino, rehearsing in the hall of Rizal High School during the latter's younger years

Avelino also recalled his father enjoyed the company of Pavarotti's teacher, Arrigo Pola, who also sang at the Pasig Glorietta in one of those Rizal Day presentations.

Said the tenor's lawyer-son: "His whole life was nothing but music."

Everything was music. It was an obsession to Octavio Cruz. He liked Enrico Caruso, Beniamino Gigli, and Ferruccio Tagliavini. He knew the great tenors and he enjoyed the personal friendship of Arrigo Pola.

When he was a boy, Avelino Cruz remembered being brought by his father to watch the film "Song to Remember," which is about the story of Polish composer Frederic Chopin. He must have been five or six years old.

The film made such a deep impression on him that, as his piano lesson progressed, he started to specialize in Chopin (one of his *ninang* was piano teacher Corazon Maceda of the PWU College of Music).

"Before I saw that movie," recalled the lawyer, "I didn't even know who Chopin was. After I had watched it with my father, I started looking for more Chopin pieces to learn and practice. By now, I must have played all his etudes, polonaises and mazurkas."



CRUZ as Edgardo in Manila Metropolitan Theater's production of "Lucia di Lammermoor" in the late '30s

Obsessed

The father didn't really push his children to

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LIFESTYLE Books



EDIFICE COMPLEX
GERARDO LICO

The conjugal architectural megalomania /G2

In this section

Why her Imeldific assumed the role of patroness of the arts

/G2



Francisco Mañosa: Master builder of the Filipino soul

/G4



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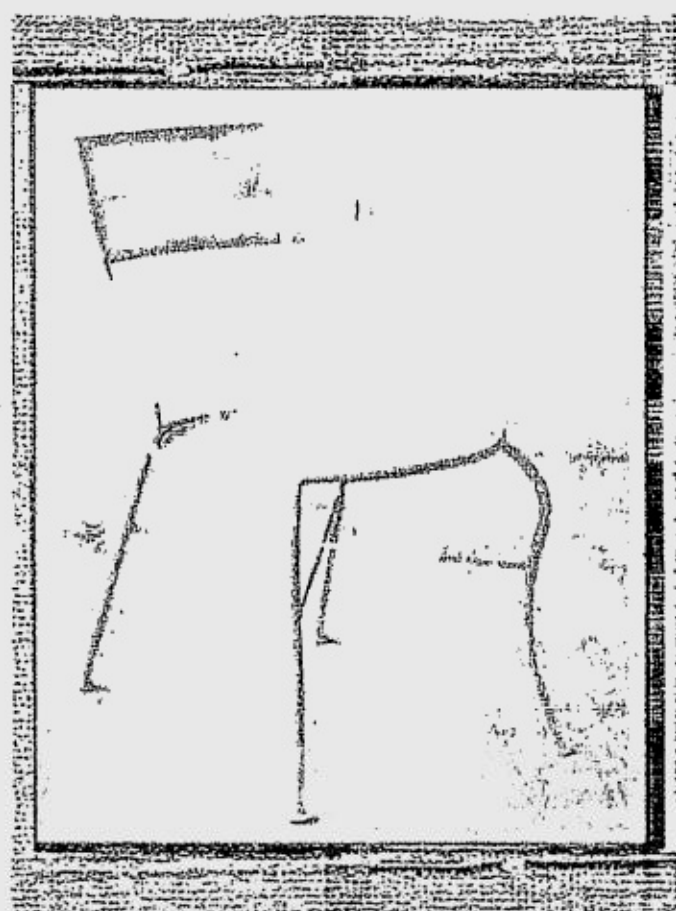
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The conjugal architectural megalomania

THE NEWLY published "Edifice Complex" (Ateneo de Manila University Press, unipress@admu.edu.ph) by Gerard Lico has been released at the historic time when the Supreme Court has ruled that the Marcoses' \$650 million Swiss deposits belong to the Filipino people.

Lico, an assistant professor of architecture at the University of the Philippines, takes a deep look at Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, their ambitions, and how their architecture was a reflection of their megalomania.

The book regards the architecture of the Marcos era as political propaganda, a backdrop, setting, and symbol of the conjugal dictatorship.

Imelda understood the value of architecture as propaganda and exploited building designs to the maximum. She established herself as patroness of architecture.

In the early days of her reign as First Lady, she commissioned the Cultural Center of the Philippines that became the centerpiece of her cultural revival program.

She was also a construction foreman extraordinaire, willing edifices to be built in record time. She built prodigiously, but the Manila Film Center was her folly and her final undoing.

Rushing the completion of a major building in 10 months caused the collapse of a higher floor on the floors beneath it, burying a number of workers in the quick-drying concrete.

Work did not stop so that the victims could be recovered; they were buried along with the cement and debris.

The first Manila Film Festival was inaugurated on time, although parts of the theater were still not completed and the concrete topping of the driveway still had not set.

Relentless

Imelda was relentless in her search for Filipino identity. Her architectural renaissance strived to revive Filipino architectural forms.

The Philippine pavilion during the 1964 New York World's Fair was roofed by a giant *salakot*. The Philippine Center on Fifth Avenue in New York was all *narra* and *kapis*.

Sweeping roofs in Muslim Mindanao fashion topped restaurant buildings, and, much later, a string of small provincial airports still in use to this day.

Today, a generation later, the revival of neo-Filipino forms has become abused into architectural cliché.

Lico explains the architectural revival as "what is now called 'neovernacular architecture,' a formulaic attempt to recreate a style from the past, in this case, vernacular traditions in the same way that neoclassical architecture approximates classical motifs."

Imelda pushed the return to architectural "roots." As Minister for Human Settlements, she sponsored the Bahay Filipino Awards, giving

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto R Villalon



recognition to homeowners who built houses that were "Filipino," underscoring the search for the authentic Filipino house that was imaginatively built of low-cost materials.

Imelda's mission was to re-awaken the nation to its elusive "soul," so she reinvented herself as the compassionate Patroness of the Arts, and "wore the ideological mask of humanism to further her political agenda."

Architecture was used as backdrop for political spectacle. The "Kasaysayan ng Lahi" mounted to inaugurate the Folk Arts Theater in the Cultural Center Complex was Imelda fantasy at its best and unsurpassed as spectacle.

It was a mega-parade so lavish and colorful, that recreated Filipino fiestas, alluding to Filipino history and cultural values. The event tried to reach epic proportions. It enlisted thousands of parade participants, many of them public-school students and their teachers.

For over two hours there were jets swooshing over the heads of 20,000 people forced to parade in synchronized movements interspersed with floats and tableaux that exalted the

conjugal dictatorship.

Surrounding Ferdinand and Imelda on the grandstand was a collection of European royalty, flown in to add an illusion of hereditary monarchical acceptance of the Marcos regime.

Self-serving

"We have seen," Lico writes, "how architecture served as a disorienting instrument for the self-serving ideologies of the Marcos regime. As the Cultural Center of the Philippines became the vortex of production and display of the First Couple's conjugal authority, architecture became an instrument of political propaganda and agent of social pacification."

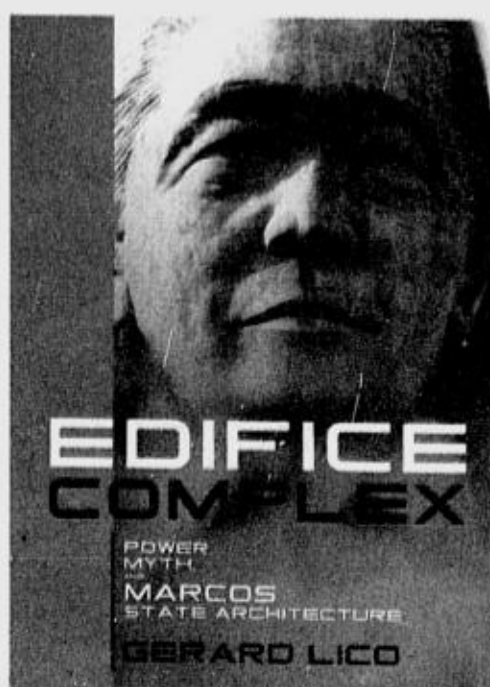
Ferdinand and Imelda simply continued the tradition of using architecture as political propaganda with the same rationale as Mussolini building EUR, a new city outside Rome, and as Hitler ordered his architect Speer to build monuments to the Reich in Germany.

Ferdinand and Imelda were not the first to build architectural propaganda in the Philippines. Spanish colonizers built forts in Cebu and Intramuros; they built the city of Vigan.

Friars marked their presence by building churches and *conventos* all over the archipelago.

When the Americans took over the islands, one of the first things they did was to send Daniel Burnham to re-plan Manila and Baguio in the image and likeness of Ameri-

The book 'Edifice Complex' shows how Marcos did a Hitler by erecting buildings to his own ego



can "civic architecture."

Then American architects came to build the structures in the image of the American regime—provincial capitols, hospitals, post offices, and schools.

Even the architecture built by each post-Edsa I regime sends its own strong political signals.

The built legacy of Ferdinand and Imelda is one of the chapters in the architectural history of the country.

It is imperative to see those architectural delusions that Lico writes so well about.

But it is difficult to appreciate the subject matter since the black-and-white photographs suffer from poor printing, a sad commentary on the quality of Philippine publishing these days. With pictures like those,

how can architecture excite anyone?

This is a book framed in the post-modern dialectic of the academic, written in the language of the art or architecture historian, which is the appropriate format for the serious critic or student.

However, the book is difficult reading for the general public who deserves new insights into the architectural egos of Ferdinand and Imelda. It misses the chance to make the public more aware of the place of architecture in our daily lives.

But with the scarcity of books on Philippine architecture, the newly published "Edifice Complex" is a very welcome addition.

E-mail the author at avillalon@hotmail.com

Top watercolorists at Genesis, Leano at West

GALLERY Genesis (4F SM Megamall) presents the 10 artists elevated to the Hall of Fame of Kulay sa Tubig, an annual invitational watercolor competition-exhibition. The watercolorists are Manuel Baldemor, Toti Cerda, Jose Ceriola, Araceli Dans, Clarence Eduarte, Egal Fernandez, Renato Habulan, Benjie Ladrado, Jimmy Vista and Wong Shui Loong. Call 6338137 to 38.

VISUAL ARTS

ERWIN Leano focuses on the female body in "Figure" at West Gallery (SM Megamall) on Aug. 7-19. In the show, he retains his monochromatic greens in depicting the female form in various poses. He also applies glazing techniques. Call 6341284.

JON CUYSON'S 9th one-man exhibition titled "Paris Paintings" will be held Aug. 5-17 at Galleria Duemila (4/L, SM Megamall). Cuyson draws from his architectural roots to produce block-colored roofscapes of his memories of France. He breaks down his art into the most crisp lines to retain the visual identity of the vistas he depicts. Call 63-6687 and 8319990.

NONITO Pongan opens his second solo exhibition "Tambala" on Aug. 10 at Syano Artlink, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque. The 15 works in mixed media will focus on construction workers, farmers and laborers. The exhibit will run until Sept. 10. Call 09198474918.



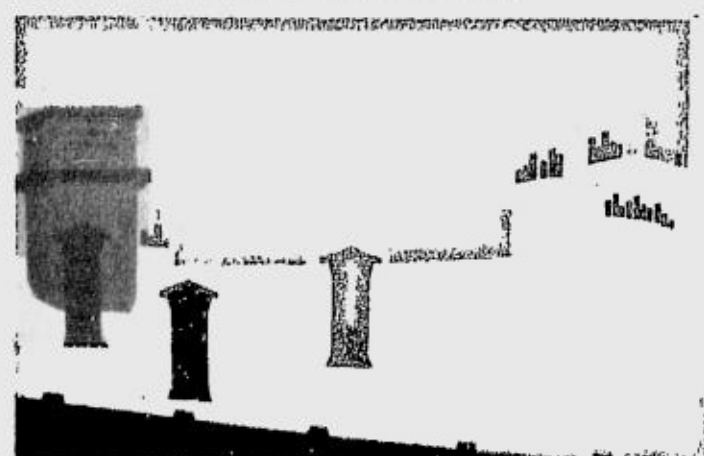
"FOLD," by Erwin Leano, at West



"MAY LIWANAG sa Hardin," by Araceli Limcaco Dans, at Genesis



"WORKERS Stooping," by Nonito Pongan, at Syano Artlink



"WHITE Rooftops," by Jon Cuyson, at Duemila

Why Her Imeldific took the role as patroness of the arts

By Constantino C. Tejero

IMELDA Romualdez Marcos is an icon, whether we like it or not. The former First Lady has only to open her mouth to disarm the infidels.

In a tête-à-tête recently in Laoag City, she warmed the cockles of our heart once again with her emotion-filled, if rambling, declarations. Sometimes you don't know where she's coming from, but often you sense that acute logic that runs the way of 1+1=2.

So shaking are those statements that we're willing to serve as spokesman for the moment. So here:

"When Ferdinand Marcos became President, he told me, 'I'll make a strong house for the Filipino people. You make it a home.' That kept me thinking: What makes a home? Values, art..." she recalls. "So I built the Cultural Center of the Philippines."

The CCP she intended to be a sanctuary for the arts, a repository of culture, thus a showcase of the Filipino soul. Designed by National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin, the building was inaugurated on Sept. 8, 1969, with the musical drama "Dularawan."

For this, she was criticized for extravagance, and the CCP was seen as the first in a series of grandiose projects manifesting her megalomania.

"When I built the CCP, many said it was the beginning of my fall," she continues. "But I was just surfacing the standard of the good, the true, and the beautiful. And that's not even mine. That's Plato's."

She insists on this ideal that's often lampooned by her critics: "Ako, malakas ako sa the good, the true and the beautiful. *Pagtawanan na nila ako, pero ako, the good, the true and the beautiful...* Women like Eva Peron, Cleopatra, they used their beauty for seduction. But me, I used it for love."

Thus her identification with Maganda, the mythical first woman. "Marcos used *Malakas* for peace," she adds, referring to her husband's identification with the mythical first man.

Art for the people

She clarifies, however, that the way she dresses is not only an embodiment of her idea of beauty but also a manifestation of national identity, and pride in that identity—that she'd be seen not only as a soldier of beauty but that wherever she trots on the globe she'll be known forever as a Filipino woman.

"I always wear the *terno* for identity," she emphasizes. "That's why I try to be presentable at any



MURAL of the former First Lady presides over a cabal of psychics trying to contact the spirits of the workers entombed in cement while work went on to complete the Film Center on schedule.

She built the CCP for the Filipinos, and now she intended to build a Film Center for the world

moment of the day. I will not compromise respect. No, no, no, no..."

Of her little people who look up to her, she says: "*Naghahanap sila ng star, naghahanap sila ng tingala-in*. That's why I spend one hour dressing up for the VIPs but two hours for the *probinsiyano*. *Porke ba mahirap sila hindi na ako magbibihis para sa kamila?* No, no, no."

These were the same people, she says, who helped her fulfill many of her visions: "Yes, I had a vision of the CCP but it became possible only because of such a talented and generous people, who gave their cent's worth to its building."

Of the importance of art to their well-being, she explains: "With art, their senses are maximized—this is what people don't realize. Their wholeness, their potentials, their dignity are maximized. Even the *karpintero*, when he listens to music and hammers, there is rhythm in his work."

Another grandiose project she built was the Manila Film Center in 1981. She reasons that, since at that time we spent some P1 million per film for processing in Tokyo or Singapore, and since

our film industry was already the third largest in the world, why not do the processing here and make Manila the center of the industry in the region?

She says she built the CCP for the Filipinos and now she intended to build a Film Center for the world. It would have been a start, but tragedy struck.

She blames it on the public bidding, saying she always got A-1 people for her projects, but because of the bidding she had to take a cheaper construction outfit she can't even remember the name now. In other words, it was not as she would have wanted.

Add to this the rush to finish the project to meet the deadline, as the Manila International Film Festival was about to open, foreign celebrities were already coming, and, presumably, the numerology President Marcos was known to strictly observe called for a definite date.

Wealth and talent

The unfinished structure collapsed, burying alive construction workers. She remembers two unfortunates, but, she hastens to add, they retrieved the bodies, gave them proper burial, and said prayers.

The official estimate at that time, though, put the dead at 30, but there were scores unaccounted for. Many would now insist the number of those killed could be as high as 169.

She feels she had to build those edifices, anyway, not only as a commitment to the propagation of culture but also as a sense of duty to the people: "I had to do it because, whatever you say, I was

a public servant."

Since the ouster of the Marcoses in 1986, she has been somewhat disowned by the cultural establishment. Institutions like the CCP would barely even acknowledge her role in its founding.

So what does she think of the state of the arts in the country now?

"Philippine culture is still there," she says plaintively. "Everything is still there. My only lament is that potentials could have been maximized by the government. They need patrons, just like in the Renaissance. Just like the Medicis. I wish I could be of help someday."

Of Filipino artists, she has the same thing to say: "Sa talent, *so-brang* talent. They only need a patroness. We can turn this country around in two years. With this talent and the natural wealth of the country, you don't need money. All you need is creativity."

She still holds that unshakable, near-mystical belief that geography is destiny: "We are in the center of the world. We are in the crosscurrents of the East and the West. We are in the center of these currents... You can change religion and ideology anytime but you cannot change geography."

This she somehow ties up with racial traits and human nature: "The Filipino is not only good but will love endlessly and selflessly. I guess what these people need is a mother."

Motherhood statements, of course, can be linked to that sense of nurture innate in any custodian of culture and patroness of the arts.

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Master builder of the Filipino soul

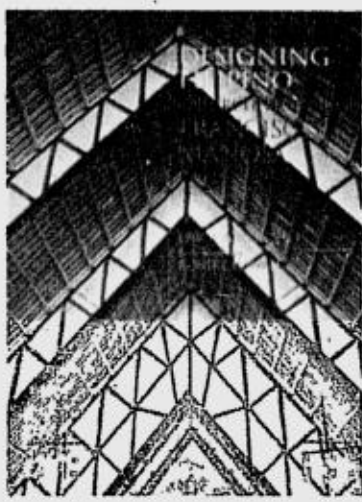
By Lito B. Zulueta

AS A STUDENT at the then College of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas, Francisco Mañosa had wanted to touch the hand of the dean, Carlos Arguelles, especially since the much-revered architect had just built the famous Philamlife Bldg. on United Nations Ave. Of course, Mañosa was never able to. That was the time when there was only a smattering of architecture schools, and architecture deans, at least of the stature of Arguelles, came few and far between, their dearth endowing them with an aura much like Moses coming down from Sinai with the tablets.

So a lifetime later, when Mañosa had come into his own, and was invited to speak before the deans of 42 architecture schools all over the country, Mañosa did not pass off the opportunity to exhort on his favorite topic: the need to evolve a distinct Filipino design that would stand shoulder to shoulder with Japanese, Bali, Thai, Spanish, and whatever design. A loquacious and voluble speaker (his staff has to nudge and occasionally bodily drag him away from conversations because it seems the period is not part of his vocabulary), he got thunderous applause after his address and felt that, if he had not touched the hands of the leaders of architecture education in the country, he had at least touched their minds and hearts.

He was wrong. During the reception, one of the deans approached and asked him, "But is there such a thing as Filipino architecture?" It was déjà vu for Mañosa, hurtling him back to the days when, as a student at UST, he and his classmates—Leandro Locsin, Nonoy Benedicto, Rafael Ng, Rodrigo Perez III, Desiderio Santos, Alfonso Cortez and Mauro Simpliciano (the last three became UST architecture deans)—debated with their teachers, who had declared there was no such

Francisco Mañosa stamps his unmistakable style and idiom on a book that champions Filipino architecture, if there is such a thing



thing as a Filipino architecture, only "vernacular architecture."

It was with the feverish excitement of the old days of debate that Mañosa responded to the dean who denied Filipino architecture. "But assuming there was really no such thing," he told the dean, "isn't it time to begin one?"

The answer to that is the overriding concern of Mañosa's life. It determines the trajectory of his art. Mañosa's art and life are lavishly presented in the coffee-table book, "Designing Filipino: The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa," which will be launched tomorrow at the Manila Polo Club.



THE ARCHITECT with a scale model of his favorite "bahay kubo."

Lucid aesthetic

It could be said that no Filipino architect has articulated as lucid an aesthetic as Mañosa. Other Filipino architects might have designed grander and more striking edifices, but nobody has been as articulate in his poetics as Mañosa. Nor as adamant: "I am a Filipino architect. By this I mean not only that I am an architect who happens to have been born and raised in the Philippines, but also one whose architecture is Filipino. I am Filipino not only by birth, but also by choice. In short, I design Filipino."

Along that line, Mañosa has designed and built some of the most noted structures in the last 30 years—the Tahanang Pilipino

(Coconut Palace), Edsa Shrine, Pearl Farm and Amanpulo. All of these represent architecture that mirrors Filipino values, climate and materiality, the three factors that, for Mañosa, constitute Philippine architecture.

Filipino value system, according to Mañosa, puts emphasis on the extended family and the social network. "As intensely social beings, Filipinos exult in the company of others, and this trait is reflected in the prominence of shared space: balconies, verandas and plazas," he says. The Filipino baroque sensibility, he added, is naturally against the strict minimalism of the modernist aesthetic.

"Culture is the dividing line," Mañosa says. "In order to design

Filipino, you must know what it means to be Filipino, and accept the multitude of cultural influences that weave into the tapestry of our lives today."

The architect says the *bahay kubo* represents the built manifestation of the Filipino aesthetic that hews to sociability, openness and functionality. "You are barely out of Manila and the *bahay kubo* is there," he explains. "You are in Manila and the poor man's shantytowns have the *bahay kubo* or its variant." He insists the *kubo* satisfies the need of the Filipino.

Moreover, Mañosa insists that Philippine architecture is tropical architecture, and so must accommodate itself to the two seasons, wet and dry, by adopting the features of the *kubo*—high ceilings, large windows, low eaves and overhangs. He explains that Filipino architecture has always been "sustainable" and "environment-friendly." He adds that the folk tune "Bahay Kubo" instinctively mirrors the heart of Filipino architecture; he says that instead of talking about the hut, the song celebrates the vegetable garden that surrounds the house. "Filipino architecture is therefore culturally and environmentally responsive," he says.

Finally, Filipino architecture is "materialist," that is, it uses and builds on indigenous materials. He explains the use of local materials is not to provide a local or rustic flavor to buildings; they are utilized because in many cases, "they are the most appropriate." Indeed, a Mañosa structure is a cornucopia of marvelous discoveries of big and small details that reveal the dramatic uses in which indigenous materials could be used.

Mañosa particularly endorses the use of bamboo and scoffs at those who considers it as poor man's wood. He says because of the advances in bamboo technology, "there is no longer any excuse not to include (it) in contemporary design." He recalls how a congresswoman railed at a building permit's office for prohibiting the use of bamboo in a building

that she had asked Mañosa to design. "If you do that, I will have you deported," the lawmaker told them. "You have no business to be in the Philippines if you look down on the bamboo."

Fashionable, finally

Mañosa's relentless advocacy of Filipino architecture has clashed with the residual colonial mindset of Filipinos that looks at the foreign as superior. And just as his baroque sensibility clashes with the modernist idiom, his aesthetic of architecture as cultural identity in built materiality and his championing of "neovernacularism" will surely conflict with postmodernism and its relegation of anything remotely connected with identity—be it myth, ideology, religion or gender—as construction and discourse. (I will discuss this in a later article.)

Mañosa's Filipinism has also clashed with the tide of globalization that is overwhelming nations and cultures. The only consolation is that Mañosa, because of the distinctiveness of his designs, particularly of tony tourist havens such as Pearl Farm and Amanpulo, has become a name of global reckoning. In fact, he is set to enplane to the Caribbean where the wife of an Italian minister wants him to design a resort house for her private island.

What does this mean? If Mañosa acerbically describes Filipino nouveau-rich preference for Swiss chalets and Mediterranean houses as not form following function, but rather "form following fashion," he has found the tables turned. He has found himself the fashion flavor, hopefully not of the moment, but of the forever Filipino.

"Defining Filipino: The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa" will be launched tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club. Proceeds will go to the Tukod Foundation, which gives scholarships to deserving students of architecture, interior design and other creative arts. E-mail: mail@manosa.com. The book is available at National Bookstore.

The national malaise as art

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

HE PAINTS stylized figures of ordinary folk, the same people he sees and comes into contact with in his daily life. The painter knows intimately whereof he paints, being a native of Binangonan, Rizal, a lakeshore town where he has lived all his life and whose own folk have served as the main inspiration for his seriocomic portraits of Pinoys perpetually engaged in various games of chance.

Guiliano Flores, who signs his works "Sakay," perhaps as a tribute to the Filipino revolutionary who refused to surrender to the Americans, has mounted a most impressive debut show. Dubbed "Solitary: Pusoy Into Art," (Hiraya Gallery, extended to Aug. 15), the show of a dozen oil on canvas paintings provides a seething commentary on the Pinoy character, his legendary follies and foibles, as reflected in his long-running affair (or, more aptly, addiction to) with the game of chance.

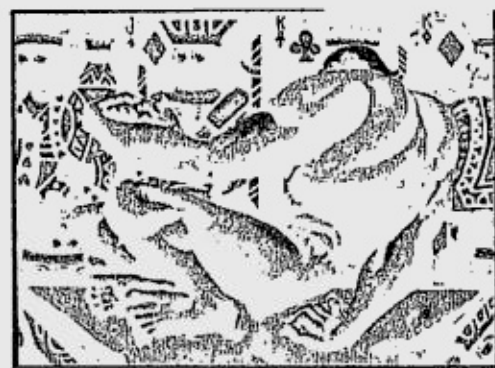
Sakay's canvases are mostly inhabited by the menfolk—workers killing time by playing *pusoy*, young men ascending the pole in a *palo sebo* game, ordinary citizens role-playing as if they are the gentlemen of the legislative chamber—although a totally naked woman appears in *Circus V* "For Art's Sake," as well as in another work. (She is presumably working in the movies, where her ilk are recruited to perform in sexually explicit scenes.) It is yet another game of exploitation in the way of the flesh, a trade that its purveyors often disguise as being pursued for a purely artistic agenda.

Indulgence

The figures in his canvases are not unlike those of many lakeshore artists with their robust, heavily tanned bodies, and distinctly indigenous features. They are perpetually prone to indulging themselves in a game of *pusoy*, as



"FIRE Spitters"



"JESTER"

well as *tong-its*, perhaps to satisfy an instinctive craving for instant fortune.

Eschewing the more prevalent and state-sponsored games as the *lotto* or the now illegal *weyting* (for waiting, literally), Sakay prefers to explore the more indigenous kind, incorporating the motif of the playing cards into the background, if it were not an essential fixture on the canvas like a mask worn by the character.

The works are truly remarkable for their rare ability to capture the strange workings of the Filipino psyche, which, in the artist's philosophical bent, closely approximate the level of malaise.

Indeed, in such pieces as "Crab," the allusion is to our own penchant for backstabbing and muckraking, more often referred to as crab mentality. Here we see three men caught in a fierce battle for the booty. In Sakay's view, it looks like a life-and-death scramble for the loot, which hangs from the top of a *palo sebo* post.

In a remarkable work called "Fire Spitters," the game involves a group of barefoot men in ordinary shorts and shirts, perhaps market butchers, huddled together as they stare down at their bet in a street game of *cara y cruz*. Judging from their faces, and their body English, they have perhaps pinned all their remaining hopes on the side of the coin that will spell the difference between winning or losing.

The work called "Wall," on the other hand, is an atypical piece from the rest of Sakay's work. It shows naked bodies of men and women, perhaps in a live show, with the faces of spectators slightly discernible from the contours of their bodies.

It is of course a subject that's perfectly in keeping with Sakay's chosen theme, the body serving to prop up one's chances in a game of survival.

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Ram replaces 'Ortigas Horse'

THE GREENHILLS Shopping Center has let the horse go in favor of the ram.

In honor of the Year of the Ram (also known as Year of the Goat), based on the Chinese calendar, a glass sculpture of the animal now graces the commercial complex.

The idea started last year when a giant horse sculpture by Roberto Saenz was hung under the mall's huge signage. The sculpture, commissioned in tribute to the Filipino-Chinese community that marked 2002 as the "Year of the Horse," became known as "The Ortigas Horse."

Rafael O. Ortigas, president of Ortigas and Company, was so pleased by the public's reaction to the horse that he asked Saenz, a personal friend, to do the ram for this year.

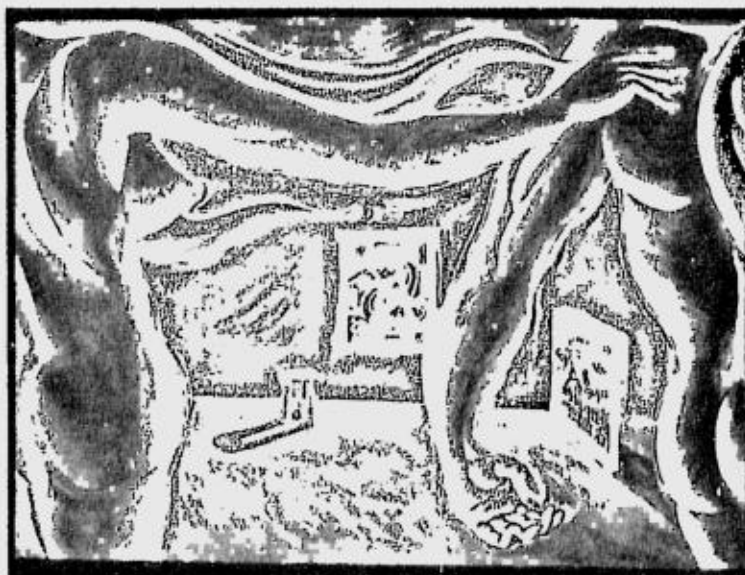
The sculptor is the only Filipino belonging to a small select band of artists worldwide practicing a unique and highly technical art form. The work involves the use of molten glass with temperatures in excess of 1500° centigrade.

The 57-year-old sculptor was already planning to retire, but after talking to Ortigas, he accepted the commission.

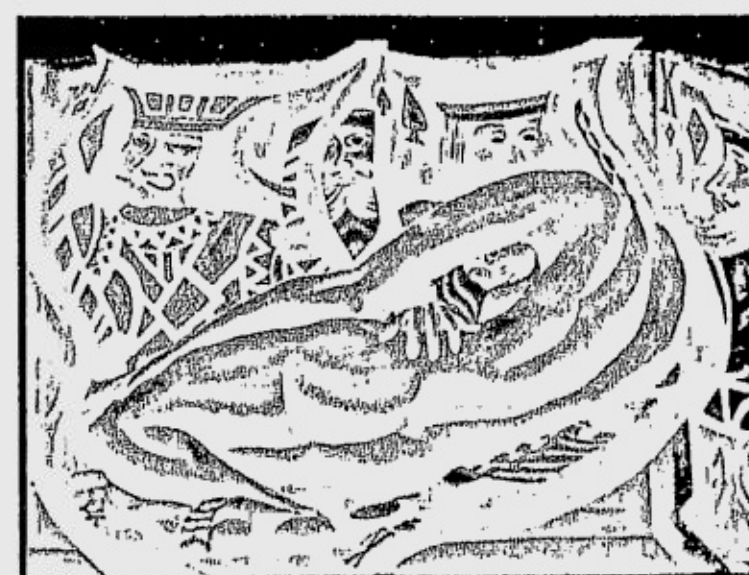
The two decided to sheathe the ram in wool, using fiberglass as suggested by the staff of Polymer Philippines. Saenz had developed a technique to hold the glass wool to the metal and welded mesh sculpture without causing the fibers to flatten. To light up the Ram's body, he placed tubes under the layers used to build up the depth of the body.

Historical romance novelist is author of the month

THE POWERBOOKS Author of the Month is Meg Cabot, the best-selling historical novelist. Cabot is at work on a series for young adult readers, which includes the hit novel "The Princess Diaries." She is also the author of two historical novels for younger readers, "Nicola and the Viscount" and "Victoria and the Rogue." Call 8444455.



"FOR Art's Sake"



"DOLL"